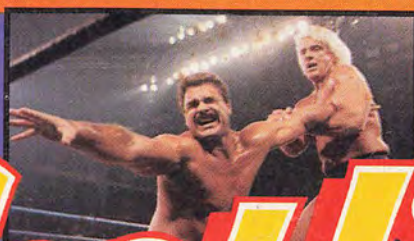


Ric Flair vs. Rick Rude: UNIFY WCW'S TITLES—NOW!

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WRESTLING

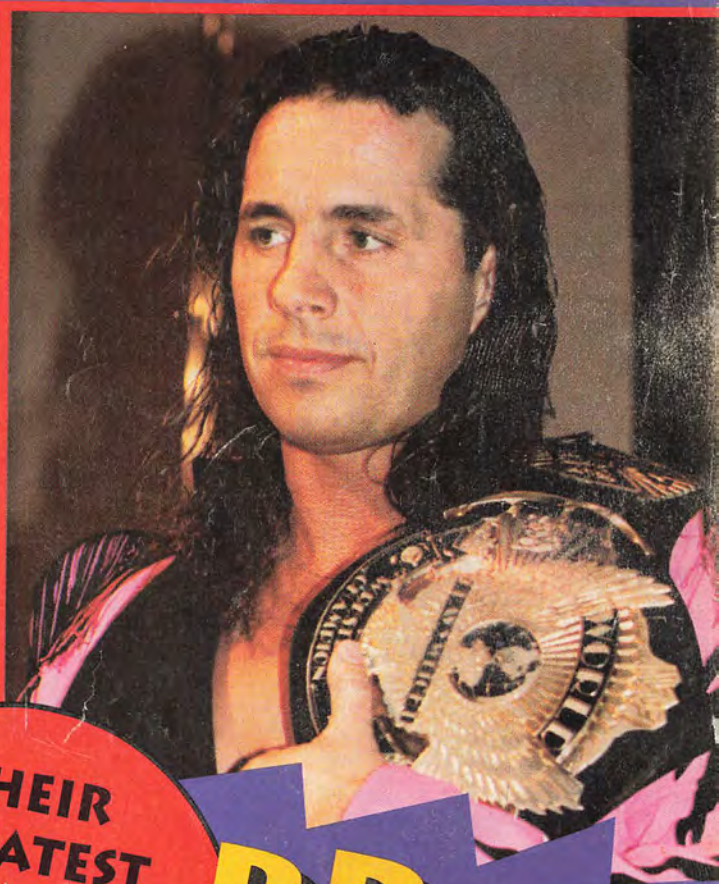
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Founder

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Sincerely Yours

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WHY WE'RE HERE

I am writing in response to Jeff Thorson's letter "Why Are They There?" ("Sincerely Yours," February 1994). You *do not* speak for all of wrestling when you state that you don't wish to see competitors such as Steve Lombardi, Barry Horowitz, Duane Gill, Russ Greenburg, Glen Ruth, and Phil Apollo (who, incidentally, is a good friend of mine). In fact, you may know me.

You see, I, like the aforementioned wrestlers, have been in the ring with some of pro wrestling's biggest and best competitors. I haven't won many matches myself, but still I and others like me continue to wrestle, and learn from each match. Heck, Barry held a championship in Global, and Apollo's a former

ICW and World Class tag champ.

The bottom line, Jeff, is this. We're trying to make a decent living, and we're doing what we enjoy. It's easy for a fan to sit and criticize what we do, but we've no need for such malarkey. Until you've been whipped around by the likes of Adam Bomb, The Headshrinkers, or Irwin R. Schyster, I and other

wrestlers like me would appreciate a little respect. After all, we *are* wrestlers, and we're doing the best that we can.

MARC WILDER
Andover, MA

WRESTLERS FOR RENT

I read recently that the WWF has initiated a program where individuals and organizations can "rent" its wrestlers for personal appearances for an undisclosed fee.

Yes, wrestling in general is experiencing a downward trend currently. The WWF is facing immense, damaging legal problems this year with potentially far-reaching ramifications. But has their situation become so tenuous they had to resort to this "rent-a-wrestler" atrocity?

Undoubtably, there are many fans who would relish The Undertaker attending their mother-in-law's funeral, setting up their worst enemy on a blind date with Bastion Booger, or having Lex Luger over for the annual family Fourth of July barbecue? Isn't this demeaning to the wrestlers themselves, while sending out negative connotations for the sport of professional wrestling?

Perhaps "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase was correct: "Everybody has a price ..."

RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS

WITCH TAMMY

This Tammy Fytch reminds me of Missy Hyatt. Both of them are snobs, and full of themselves.

But anyway, Tammy couldn't put a spell on a frog, let alone a person. But you never know; maybe she has a witch's personality. If she took on Sherri Martel, Fytch would be crying for mercy.

I hate anyone who says bad things about someone when they aren't there, or someone they don't even know. That really gets to me.



Barry Horowitz is a former champion (two Global junior heavyweight titles), notes reader Marc Wilder, a professional wrestler himself. He responded to a recent letter criticizing Horowitz and other preliminary competitors.



If Tammy Fytch wrestled Sherri Martel, she wouldn't stand a chance, states reader Susan Senkel. She calls Fytch a snob, and says her managing does little for wrestling.

What could Tammy do for wrestling that other managers have done? Nothing.

The only decent manager/ valet that there ever was were Elizabeth, Sunshine, and Tessa. The rest of them are snakes, pure and simple.

SUSAN SENKEL
Duncanville, TX

FLAIR'S THE BEST

I cheered when Jack Nicklaus won the Masters in 1986. Five years later, I went crazy with joy when Nolan Ryan fired his seventh no-hitter. They proved the human spirit can vanquish the power of time and age.

Add Ric Flair to this list of distinguished old warriors. To see a guy in his 40s outlast and outwit someone as powerful (and smart) as Big Van Vader was an uplift for middle-aged folks everywhere. The guy is amazing, and as fun to watch now as he was 15 years ago.

I still have debates with friends over whether Flair or Hulk Hogan is the greatest wrestler of his era. While I respect the "Hulkster's" accomplishments and admit he did

more to popularize wrestling than anyone else in the 1980s, he had many things working in his favor: Vince McMahon's publicity machine and the power of the New York press, to name a few. In contrast to Hogan, Flair's popularity base circa 1984-85 was the Midwest and South, under an array of federations who had relatively little promotional ability. Suppose things had been the other way around? Flair is as charismatic as Hogan, albeit differently, and his fame might

he was lost. Flair's power was underrated, especially in his prime. And as a ring tactician, Hogan didn't come close to him. No one does.

Anyone who doesn't acknowledge the "Nature Boy" as the best wrestler North America has produced since Bruno Sammartino's heyday doesn't know the sport. I, for one, am glad to have been able to see him wrestle.

M.G. DREXLER
Cavalier, ND

GIVE HIM CREDIT

This isn't politically correct, I guess, but Yokozuna must be doing something right to hold on to the WWF World title for more than half a year. Is he an all-around wrestler? Not by any means. But he has played the cards nature has dealt him to the fullest, and you can't argue with that.

I'll never put Yokozuna in the same class as past WWF champs like Bruno Sammartino or Bob Backlund, but he's above the likes of flukes like Stan Stasiak or The Iron Sheik and deserves recognition. And anyone who can win a World title under the "guidance" of the inept Mr. Fuji deserves praise!

GEORGE SHAWN
Paso Robles, CA



Ric Flair was beating the world's top wrestlers in 1981, and still amazes fans 13 years later. According to reader M.G. Drexler, Flair—not Hulk Hogan—is the greatest wrestler of his time.

have eclipsed that achieved by the "Hulkster."

As wrestlers, there was no comparison. Hogan could do a few things in the ring, but they were all power-based. Force him to wrestle scientifically, and most of the time

ALL FOR IWCCW

I wish everyone in the wrestling media would quit bashing the IWCCW.

This exciting federation has been unfairly criticized for quite some time. Based in the Northeast, the IWCCW roster includes stars like Tony Atlas, Manny Fernandez, Joe Savoldi, and Koko B. Ware. Also,

(Continued on page 58)

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Good move, bad move. Let's put some of wrestling's hot news items into perspective.

Nick Bockwinkel named WCW commissioner. Tough, highly intelligent, respected by fan favorites and rule-breakers alike, Bockwinkel was the only man for the job. It's incredible that it has taken this long for a major wrestling league to realize his value. **Good move.**

Lex Luger and Bret Hart named co-winners of the Royal Rumble. This was indeed a dead heat. I defy anyone, even using super slow motion, to decide which man was the last out of the ring. I have no qualms with the call. But what Jack Tunney could have done to avoid all the confusion leading into WrestleMania was order the two to go at it, one-on-one, until there was a true winner. **Bad move.**

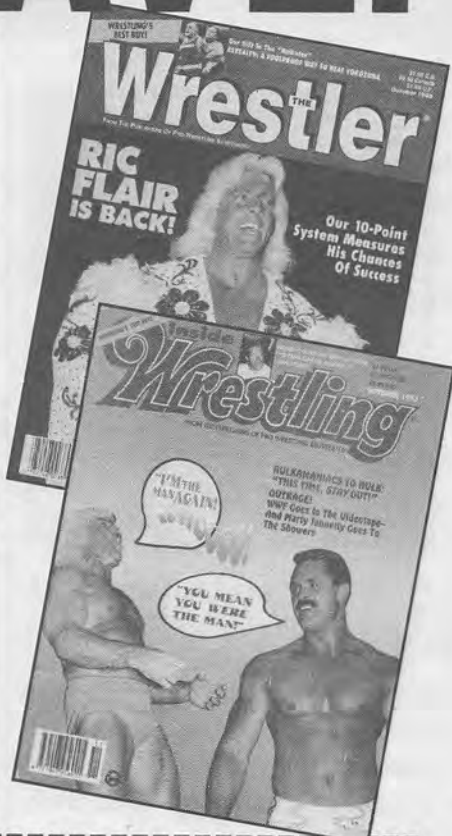
Paul Roma severs ties with The Four Horsemen. The Horsemen were at their best when they were a goal-oriented rulebreaking unit. Now, with one of its members recovering from stab wounds and ring rust, another having been crowned WCW World champion, and a third not even an active wrestler, what future would Roma have? **Good move.**

Jim Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies assault Paul Morton. Aside from the obvious heinousness of the act, Cornette and the Bodies have stirred the emotions of a man who can be absolutely vicious when angered to this extent. With this much adrenaline shooting through his body, I wouldn't bet against Morton in a match against all three! **Bad move.**

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NAMES MA

YOKOZUNA



WRESTLEMANIA X IS scheduled for New York's Madison Square Garden on March 20, but who will face WWF World champion **Yokozuna** in the feature match? Both **Lex Luger** and **Bret Hart**, that's who.

The matter was supposed to have been resolved at the Royal Rumble on January 22 at the Civic Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The winner of the Rumble was guaranteed a title shot at *WrestleMania*. Trouble was, there were *two* winners, as Hart and Luger went over the top rope simultaneously.

WWF President **Jack Tunney** decided to give both wrestlers a chance, and that makes sense. Both Hart and Luger are fan favorites with large and vocal followings. Both are former world champions (Hart in the WWF, Luger in WCW). Perhaps Yokozuna is the most disappointed of all. If he is to leave the Garden with his title intact, he'll have to defeat both wrestlers.

However, Hart and Luger may be equally tired. They'll flip a coin to determine who faces Yokozuna first. The loser will wrestle an additional match—Luger against **Crush** or Bret against ... younger brother **Owen Hart**!

The Rumble had more to offer than the battle royal. Earlier, Bret and Owen challenged World tag team champions **The Quebecers**, and Bret's leg hit the guard rail when he was thrown out of the ring. Owen wanted to tag in, but big brother would have none of it. Finally, Bret snared **Pierre** in a "sharpshooter," but it was Bret who was in pain. Referee **Tim White** halted the match, and a furious Owen yelled to Bret, "Why didn't you tag me?" Owen tripped his brother on the way out of the ring.

The Quebecers had been without their title belts for a week, as **Marty Jannetty** and **The Kid**—who both posted upsets last spring on *WWF Monday Night Raw*—celebrated the program's first anniversary by winning the

tag title in Richmond, Virginia. Seven days later, **Jacques** and **Pierre** won it back at Madison Square Garden.

Yokozuna almost lost his title ... and perhaps much more. The Samoan sumo star nearly lost a casket match to **The Undertaker**,



COL. ROBERT PARKER

who was all set to shut the door of the casket when several rule-breakers rushed in to rescue Yokozuna. **Crush**, **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **Adam Bomb**, **The Headshrinkers**, and others pulled the champ out and, after a lengthy fight, pushed Undertaker in.

In addition, Intercontinental champion **Razor Ramon** retained his belt with a conquest of **Irwin R. Schyster**, despite interference from former I-C champ **Shawn Michaels**.

Guess who have thrust themselves into contention for the WCW World tag team title? The unlikely pairing of **Cactus Jack** and **Maxx Payne**. At *Clash of the Champions XXVI* at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the motley mates defeated **The Nasty Boys** in a



THE UNDERTAKER

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

non-title bout. To add insult to injury, Jack and Maxx then each kissed Nastys' manager **Missy Hyatt**.

In a tag team elimination match pitting World champion **Ric Flair** and **Sting** against former champ **Big Van Vader** and **Rick Rude**, Vader gained a measure of revenge on Flair, brutalizing and eliminating the "Nature Boy." Sting eventually won the event by pinning Rude.

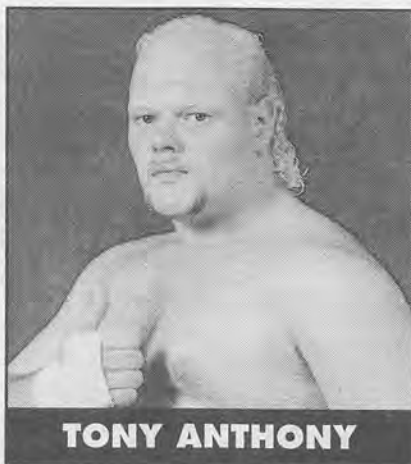
U.S. champion **Steve Austin** and manager **Col. Robert Parker** changed places at the Clash. Parker took on **Brian Pillman** in a special challenge match, where the loser would have to wear a chicken suit. Austin came to ring-side, adopted a fake Southern



BOBBY HEENAN

accent, and pretended to manage Parker. **The Boss** then invaded the ring, chased Austin from the premises, and Pillman pinned Parker. A word to the colonel: Keep away from **Frank Perdue**.

Many changes are taking place at WCW. **Bobby Heenan** became



TONY ANTHONY

the latest WWF figure to re-emerge in **Ted Turner's** federation, as he joined its broadcast crew for the Clash. Other WWF alumni at the broadcast table are **Gene Okerlund** and **Jesse Ventura**.

Incidentally, Ventura is popping up all over the place. The mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, is now a weekday morning talk-show host at Twin Cities radio station KSTP-AM. However, FCC guidelines would require Ventura to temporarily give up his broadcast work if, as rumored, he decides to run for the U.S. Senate this year.

Near the end of 1993, WCW was restricting its shows to the Southeast, but is starting to do an about-face. The Spring Stampede pay-per-view will be held at the Rosemont Horizon in suburban Chicago on April 17. The Horizon had hosted only WWF cards in recent years.

If **Tony Anthony** ever competes in a Royal Rumble under the WWF's talent agreement with Smoky Mountain, he'll at least

know what to expect. "Dirty White Boy" was the winner of SMW's "Tri-City Rumble" in Johnson City, Tennessee. It was conducted under Royal Rumble rules and held the same night as the event in Providence.

However, Anthony is not having



TERRY FUNK

similar success in his quest to unseat **Brian Lee**. The heavyweight champion, under the guidance of the shrewd **Tammy Fytch**, has been able to withstand Anthony's furious challenges.

Terry Funk knows what it's like to withstand challenges. The crafty veteran won the ECW title from **Sabu** the day after Christmas, and recently battled **Shane Douglas** (assisted by **Sherri Martel**) in Philadelphia. Action lasted for 45 minutes, and the match was finally ruled a draw. Rest assured there will be a rematch of this one.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

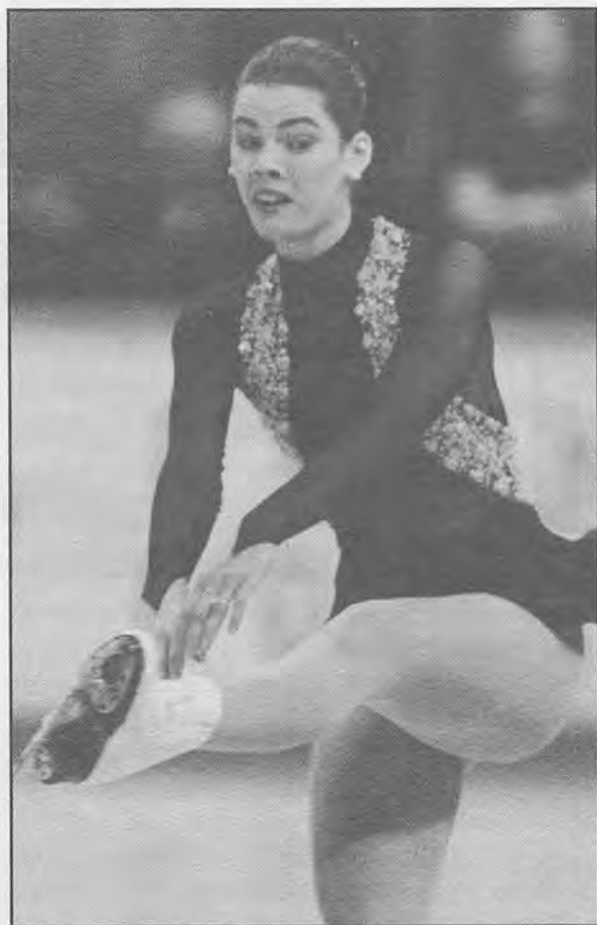
ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

THE FAMILIAR SIRENS blare.

"Good evening, fans, Vince McMahon here coming to you live from Lillehammer, Norway, on *Monday Night Raw*! With me tonight, as always, the one, the only, the 'Macho Man' himself, Randy Savage! And 'Macho Man,' we've got a special treat tonight!"

"Oh, yeaahhhh! This is one the 'Macho Man' wouldn't miss for a second, Vince! Two competitors



Perhaps a wrestling match between Nancy Kerrigan (above) and Tonya Harding (right) could settle their differences. Without the skates, of course.

who hate each other, going at it, hand to hand, toe to toe, and woman to woman! Dig it!"

"That's right, Randy Savage. Tonight, right here live on *Monday Night Raw*, a special challenge match between two of the top women in the world—Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan! This one should

be a classic! And here, joining us for a special return engagement behind the microphone, a name all of you fans are familiar with, a longtime member of our broadcast team, Bobby 'The Brain' Heenan! Bobby, welcome back! How do you see this one?"

"I talked with Tonya Harding's manager, Jeff Gillooly, just a couple of minutes ago, Vince, and he says he's got a special surprise for Nancy Kerrigan tonight! We all know Gillooly is one of the best managers in the business, and I wouldn't be surprised to see Harding skate off with the title when it's all over!"

"We shall certainly see about that, Bobby Heenan! And here comes Tonya Harding, making her way down the runway in her traditional black tights, with her manager, Jeff Gillooly."

"You know why she wears black, don't you?"

"Well, I don't, Bobby, but something tells me that you're going to tell us."

"She says it makes her tougher."

"I don't think that's the reason at all, 'Brain.' I think she's wearing black because she's going to a funer-



al—her own! Ohh, yeaahhhh!"

"What would you know about what to wear, Savage? You dress like you were part of the opening ceremonies of the Olympics—one of the flags!"

"And here comes Nancy Kerrigan and listen to this crowd, ladies and gentlemen! They are going

(Continued on page 54)

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March 1989

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

THE QUESTION OF brotherly love once again emerged at the WWF's Royal Rumble, and its depth will be tested in dramatic fashion at WrestleMania X. This has all the makings of the best and most fascinating WrestleMania since Andre vs. Mr. Hogan at III.

At stake for Bret Hart, Lex Luger, and Yokozuna is the WWF World title and all the fame and fortune it carries. At stake for Owen Hart is the answer to this question: How much does he love his brother?

That might seem like a strange thing to say in light of Owen's recent behavior toward Bret, but I'm not totally convinced Owen hates Bret and is ready to cost him the World title. Remember, Bret will wrestle the Luger-Yokozuna winner for the World title, no matter what happens in his match against Owen. Even if he beats Bret, Owen will be done for the evening.

These are important factors. Never once have I heard Owen say he hates Bret or even dislikes him. Owen resents Bret, but resentment between brothers isn't

unusual. Nor is it completely out of the question for brothers not to speak with each other for years.

But remember this: There's a thin line between love and hate. Brothers who won't speak to each other must have loved each other very much; otherwise, the hurt one or both felt wouldn't have been so painful. We don't hate

but does he hate Bret enough to seriously injure him?

I don't think so. And when all is said and done, I think we'll be relieved to discover that Owen loves Bret and the family ties in the Hart family are too strong. Who would Owen rather see with the World title, Yokozuna, Luger, or his brother? I think that's a pret-



We know Owen Hart wants to defeat older brother Bret at WrestleMania X. But does Owen want to seriously injure the "Hitman," thus preventing him from getting a title shot later on the card?

people we don't have strong feelings for. Spouses hate their exes. Athletes hate their former teams.

Bret's WrestleMania fate is in Owen's hands. If he wishes, "The Rocket" has the tools to attack Bret's oft-injured knee and virtually cripple him prior to the title match. A cheap shot here, the use of a foreign object there, and Bret is done. Sure, Owen wants to prove himself against his brother,

ty easy question to answer.

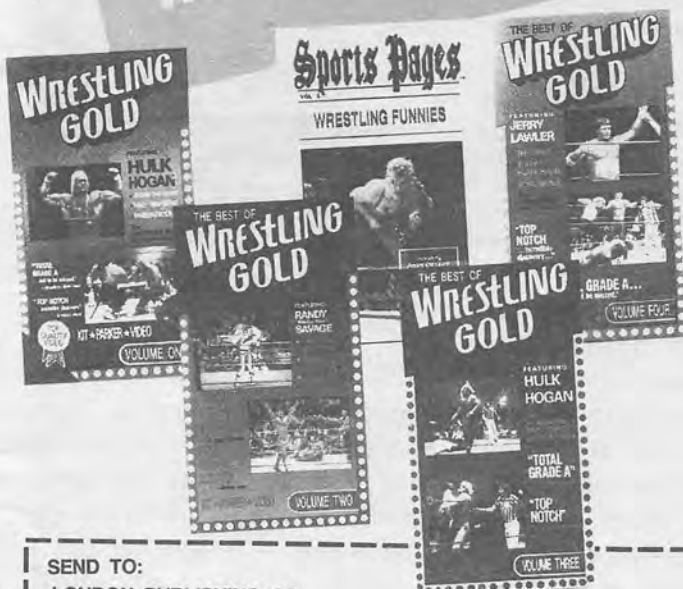
We'll get our answer during WrestleMania X at Madison Square Garden: where WrestleMania began, where it is today. It's a dramatic soap opera-within-a-wrestling card that figures to be unforgettable.

Here is my unofficial WrestleMania X line:

(Continued on page 60)

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Bruiser Brody & Scott Casey vs. Kelly Kiniski & The Spoiler
Randy Savage & Jerry Lawler vs. Rick Rude & King Kong Bundy (Shark Cage Match):

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more. Here's the lineup:

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Hulk Hogan vs. The Outlaw
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Terry Taylor vs. Sabu
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Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tully Blanchard
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the **Insider**

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NEWS ITEM: BOBBY Heenan Debuts in WCW.

He called Ric Flair a six-time World champion. He begged viewers to call his 1-900 number. He called Tony Schiavone a geek and claimed his former protege, new WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel, was a moron.

Welcome home, Mr. Bobby Heenan.

Heenan's departure from the WWF shocked the wrestling world. The zany trio of Heenan, Gorilla Monsoon, and Vince McMahon had become the ring's version of Frank Gifford, Al Michaels, and Dan Dierdorf. It was Heenan's irreverence that allowed us to endure the endless histrionics of his two hysterical partners.

He was coming off his best year, too. The esteemed magazine *Wrestling 94: Rulebreaker* had named him its Broadcaster of the Year, and Heenan had his wonderfully meddling hand in no less than four major coups, including Yokozuna's re-ascension to the championship ranks. How could the WWF let him go?

"It was time for a change," is

Together once again! Wrestling's most irreverent analyst, Bobby Heenan, is now on WCW telecasts. Now "The Brain" is playing off his one-liners against Gene Okerlund. It'll be fun to see Heenan at work in coming months.



all Heenan would comment on the move. Which makes one suspect he's still contractually bound to his old federation. Bobby Heenan doesn't burn bridges; he blows them up. You can tell he's dying to talk, but has his own peculiar reasons he's chosen to stay quiet.

Meanwhile, WCW, with the additions of Heenan and Gene Okerlund, along with Jesse Ventura (overrated, but still an announcing force), Schiavone (a shill with skills) have themselves a potent quartet of broadcasters. It was pure magic when "The Brain" and Bockwinkel squared off on Heenan's debut card.

With a new federation to plunder and confuse, 1994 should be Bobby Heenan's breakthrough year.

News Item: Big Van Vader Collects Debt. You want cliches? I got a million of 'em. Once the dust settles, the cream always rises. Winners never quit, the best keep getting bet-

ter. All apply to his majesty Big Van Vader, the best wrestler since Bruiser Brody took a knife to the gut.

At Clash of the Champions XXVI, Mr. Vader restored the alignment of the planets. Three consecutive splashes off the top rope sent Ric Flair to the hospital and, if he's smart, to the ex-champion's retirement home.

Vader is a force of nature, like the Dallas Cowboys in miniature. He swarms over opponents, a relentless surge of power and speed. And, like the Cowboys, Vader will repeat as champion—over and over again.

"As bad as I felt for Vader after he lost his title, in my heart I said a prayer for Ric Flair," said Harley Race, Vader's manager. "Give Flair his due. He rose to the occasion, like a helium balloon. But you saw what happens when a balloon crashes into a jet plane. It's not pretty. Vader isn't pretty. But in all

(Continued on page 62)

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT WRESTLING...

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Call as often as you like. The contest begins December 1, 1993, and continues through January 30, 1994. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent upon the number of entries. For complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **PWI TRIVIA**, P. O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$250 winner. From December 1, 1993 until January 30, 1994, a total of 60 game cartridges, 10 posters, and 10 key chains will be awarded. The game cartridges will be compatible with one of the following systems: Nintendo (retail value \$50), Super Nintendo (retail value \$60), Game Boy (retail value \$30), or Genesis/Sega (retail value \$55). London Publishing Co. will select the winners and, at its discretion, select the game cartridges to be awarded. Game cartridges, posters, and key chains are provided courtesy of Electro Brain Corp. Electro Brain Corp.'s involvement in the contest is limited to offering the game cartridges, posters, and key chains only. No substitutions allowed.



PLUS: Each month, five runners-up will receive a video game prize package that includes six game cartridges and a "Legends of **THE RING**" poster and key chain.



ALL-NEW QUESTIONS starting December 1, 1993

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next \$250 winner!

ACTUAL QUESTIONS

Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did **Ron Simmons** play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: **Giant Gonzales** competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of **Argentina's** water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$250!

ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

THE EDITORS RECENTLY handed out self-evaluation forms where they asked all writers to list their biggest professional strengths and weaknesses. After spending so many words and years analyzing other people, it was fascinating to turn the microscope inward.

There are columnists who use words like magic, and every month weave stories that sing and dance. I am not one of those mystical wordsmiths. I harbor no illusions that I am a great writer. I listed my biggest professional strength as my ability to let my subjects tell their story. That means getting the subjects to talk, gaining access into their private lives, getting into their heads. That's what I do for a living. I get into other's people's heads.

Not like Dr. Sidney Basil, the wrestling psychologist with whom I'm collaborating on a book. I don't interpret; I leave that up to you, my readers. I massage their minds. I create the environment that allows them to reveal sides that other columnists are unable to penetrate.

My biggest fault? I am not immodest, certainly not an Eddie Ellner, who listed as his biggest fault the catastrophe of having to work with such a pigheaded staff. Yet I couldn't think of a work trait that I would change. Then I remembered a letter I received last month.

"Dear One-Track Liz," started Andrea Fields of Charlotte, North Carolina. "My latest edition of *INSIDE WRESTLING* is, as always, a welcome presence in my mailbox. I have been a big fan of yours for years and love following your trail



A reader, tired of seeing Liz Hunter stories centering around Rick Rude, asked her whether she still has the drive that enabled her to surprise Stan Hansen at his house.

from ring adventure to ring adventure.

"Lately, however, it seems as if your adventures have been confined to a small, select group of wrestlers. I count six columns on Rick Rude alone in the past two years. Surely there are other wrestlers worthy of your unique scrutiny. Or perhaps there is something else going on between you and Mr. Rude that you aren't telling your readers?"

"If that's the case, I feel cheated. You have built a trust among your readers. We believe you wouldn't keep anything from us. Are we wrong? Or has the person who defied all standards of personal safety to surprise Stan Hansen at his house, who risked her life to keep a frightened Nikita Koloff from returning to Russia, has this person gotten soft? Has the aggressive young mongoose

(Continued on page 56)

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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE ²¹⁴

2 COLD SCORPIO

WHEN AERIAL wrestlers in North America are discussed, 2 Cold Scorpio's name is invariably mentioned ... He and Marcus Alexander Bagwell briefly held the WCW World tag team title last October, and are among the most popular duos in any federation ... A 5'11", 222-pound native of Denver, where he played football, baseball, basketball, and ran track in high school and even boxed in two Golden Gloves tournaments ("I'm an all-around athlete, and proud of it") ... An avid wrestling fan whose favorites were The High Flyers, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell ... Got his break in 1986, when he met independent wrestler Mike Starr at a fitness center, began training with him, and was noticed at his pro debut by fellow Denver resident Big Van Vader ... They became friends, and Vader helped Scorpio secure a tour of Japan ("Vader is brutal—but give the man credit, he knows his wrestling!") ... Stayed eight months in Japan, learning his craft from Kensuke Sasaki, Black Cat, and Hiroshi Hase ("It's virtually impossible to be a first-rate aerial wrestler with-

out spending time in Asia") ... Has also competed in Mexico, where he studied Mil Mascaras and other stars while further honing his mat skills ... While in Japan, he was scouted by Ron Simmons, who liked what he saw and said he'd love to have him as a teammate

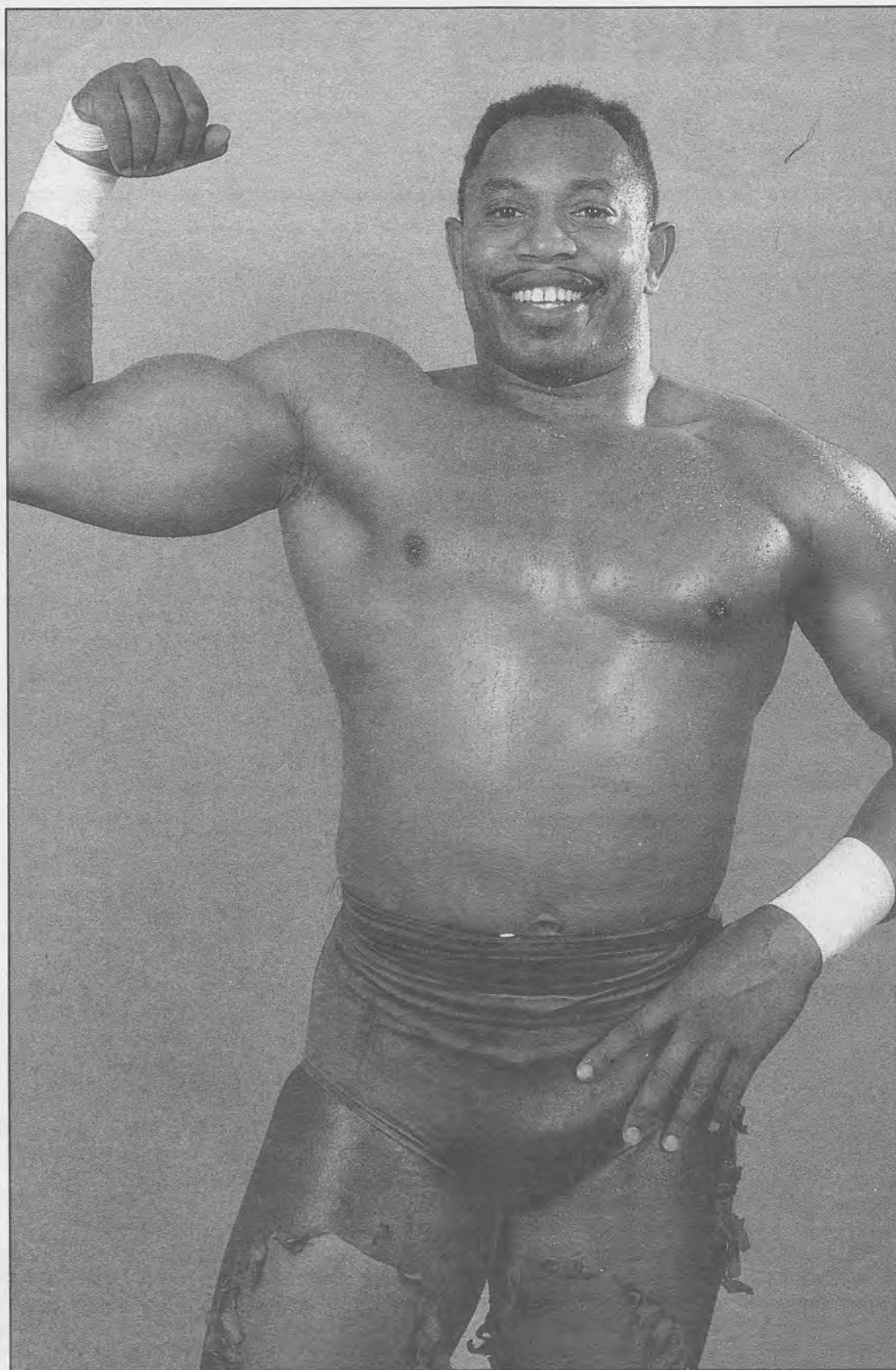
replaced the injured Robbie Walker in a match at Clash of the Champions XXI on November 18, 1992, in Macon, Georgia ... In storybook fashion, he helped Simmons defeat Tony Atlas, Cactus Jack, and The Barbarian, using his "Scorpio splash" to subdue Atlas and gain the victory ("Not bad for a federation debut, and on national TV to boot!") ... Still wrestles solo in both Japan and the States, including a memorable loss to NWA champion Barry Windham last summer, but currently concentrates on tag team competition with the muscular Bagwell ("We complement each other perfectly. Just too cold") ... Gradually weaved their way up WCW's tag team rankings, and reached the summit on October 4 in Columbus, Georgia, unseating The Nasty Boys for the World title ("That night, muscle and feet were among the elite!") ... The pair held the belts for only 20 days before the Nastys won them back, but the championship feeling is something Scorpio will never forget ("And something I intend to experience again and again") ... Eventually plans to seek similar glory at the solo level ... His best years may still be ahead of him ("My goal is



2 Cold Scorpio's impressive aerial ability (on display against Steve Austin) has made him one of the most popular wrestlers in the world. Young and enthusiastic, he has many fine years ahead.

one day ("A nice compliment from a great wrestler, but I kind of shrugged it off") ... It happened sooner than expected, as Scorpio

to become the premier aerial wrestler on this continent, the American equivalent of Jushin Liger!")



2 COLD SCORPIO

Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



HECTOR GUERRERO

Born into a wrestling family, this knowledgeable high-flyer has competed throughout the world, most notably in Florida, Mexico, and Japan. In 1987, he teamed with Dr. D to briefly hold the AWA World tag team title. A member

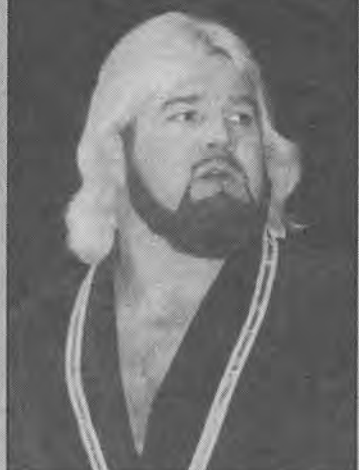
of the Screen Actors Guild, he has even been a stunt double for stars like Tony Curtis and Adam Baldwin. Guerrero now runs a wrestling school in Knoxville, Tennessee.



DEBBIE MALENKO

The affable female star, one of the famed wrestling Malenkos, is still recuperating from a broken leg she suffered during a match in Japan last March. "Sure it hurts, but that's part of the competition," says Debbie, who had won

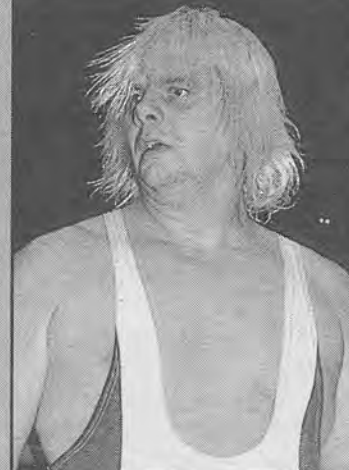
the All-Japan Women's Japanese title from Kaoru Ito the month before. "I'm coming along nicely, and I vow to be back soon. I may even return to the States and challenge Alundra Blayze!"



RIP OLIVER

From 1980 to 1991, he won the Pacific Northwest title 12 different times, and also was part of 16 championship tag teams. While he's now retired from active competition, he is still involved in wrestling, training his son Larry in

Portland, Oregon. "I'm proud that he and I won a tag title together in 1990," Rip says. "Mark my words, Larry is going to have a superlative solo career. All he needs is the experience and he'll shoot straight to the top!"



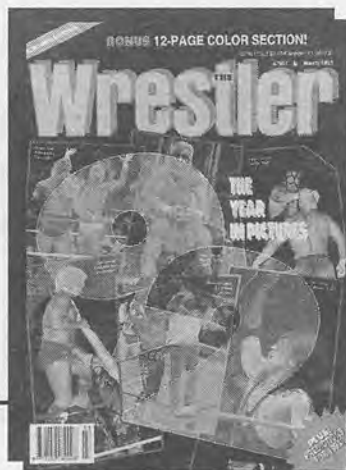
LARRY SHARPE

A platinum blond who still wrestles every now and then, "Pretty Boy" is better known for his "Monster Factory" schools in Clementon, New Jersey, and Tampa, Florida that have trained scores of wrestlers. Among his

alumni are the WWF's Bam Bam Bigelow, Global's Sweet Daddy Falcone, and ECW's Johnny Hot Body. "I can hone my students' ability and teach them ring psychology," he says. "But they've got to supply the desire."

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MARCH 1993 WRESTLER features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

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MARCH 1990 INSIDE WRESTLING looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review of the most significant events in the sport. Must reading for all fans!

JANUARY 1993 INSIDE WRESTLING presents a stunning 12-page bonus full-color section covering the WWF's SummerSlam '92 extravaganza and Clash of the Champions XX, which celebrated 20 years of wrestling on TBS.

JANUARY 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING offered the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!

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NEWS FROM THE WR

RICHFIELD, OH BY ALBERT WOLF



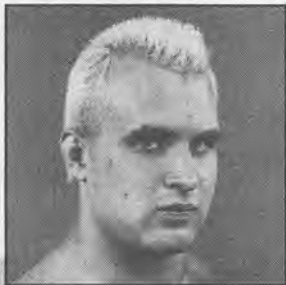
YOKOZUNA VS. TATANKA



The World champion sumo star battled the WWF's popular Native American at the Coliseum, and Tatanka's running entrance brought the crowd into a frenzy. He made things difficult for Yokozuna, but the Samoan rode out the storm and was able to retain his title belt. He used a solid leg-drop to put away Tatanka for one of the challenger's few losses in WWF competition.

OTHER BOUTS: In a best-of-three, falls-count-anywhere match, Crush defeated Randy Savage when Savage was unable to answer the bell for the third fall and was counted out ... In a "coward surrenders" match, Lex Luger defeated Ludvig Borga ... Men on a Mission beat The Red Knight & The Black Knight when Mabel pinned Black Knight ... Diesel pinned The Kid ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Doink ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Shawn Michaels in a ladder match.

CHILHOWIE, VA BY JEANNE HOWARD



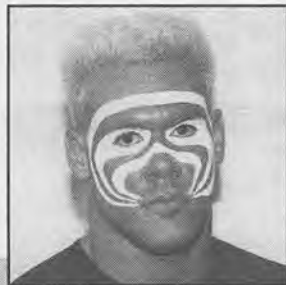
CHRIS CANDIDO VS. ROBBIE EAGLE



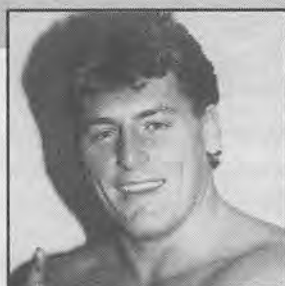
The rulebreaking Candido seemed somewhat overconfident as he sauntered into the gymnasium for his Smoky Mountain TV title defense vs. and intense-looking Eagle. Their respective entrances were an omen of what was to come. While Candido put forth a strong effort, the challenger had much the upper hand. Eagle dominated virtually the entire match, finally pinning the champ.

OTHER BOUTS: Tracey Smothers beat Jeff Victory ... Chris Candido beat Rick Morton by countout ... Smoky Mountain tag team champions The Heavenly Bodies beat Jason Herd & Jason West ... Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion Brian Lee beat Bobby Blaze ... Prince Kharis beat Jason West ... Tony Anthony defeated Chris Candido by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Jason West & Jason Herd ... Tony Anthony beat Killer Kyle by disqualification.

ATLANTA, GA BY JOSEPH DAVIS



STING VS. LORD STEVEN REGAL

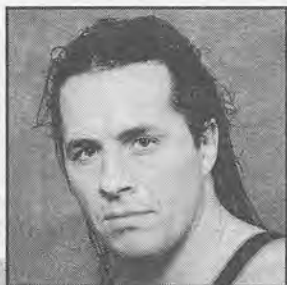


Since no title was on the line at this WCW TV taping, TV champion Regal could have taken it easy. But the Briton didn't, using his vast knowledge of scientific wrestling to make life difficult for Sting. But the popular face-painted star overcame an early disadvantage, gradually took the initiative, and soon pinned Regal to delight the fans at the Center Stage Theater.

OTHER BOUTS: World tag team champions The Nasty Boys beat Mark Starr & Ron Oakes ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Gary Lynch ... Ron Simmons pinned T.C. Carter ... Big Van Vader pinned Alex Phillips ... The Boss, Sting, & Ric Flair beat Rick Rude, Steve Austin, & Ron Simmons ... Paul Roma & Paul Orndorff beat Erik Watts & Terry Taylor ... U.S. champion Steve Austin beat Brady Boone ... World tag team champions The Nasty Boys defeated 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Bagwell ... The Boss beat The Equalizer.

ESTLING CAPITALS

**BALTIMORE, MD
BY SALLY SANDERS**



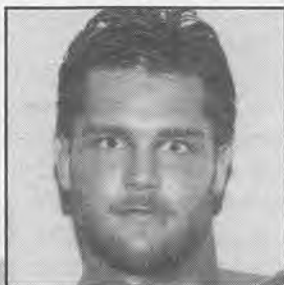
**BRET HART
VS.
IRWIN R. SCHYSTER**



One day after unexpectedly co-winning the Royal Rumble with Lex Luger at the Providence Civic Center, Hart continued his winning ways in singles competition with a hard-fought conquest of the tenacious Schyster at the Baltimore Arena. This was an outstanding match between two of the WWF's better technical wrestlers, and the crowd enjoyed watching them try to outwit each other. The "Hitman" struggled in the early going, but eventually wore down the taxman from Syracuse to earn the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Sparky Plugg defeated Rick Martel ... Diesel defeated Marty Jannetty ... Randy Savage & Lex Luger defeated Kwang the Ninja & Crush ... Adam Bomb defeated Bob Backlund ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated World tag team champions The Quebecers by disqualification ... WWF World champion Yokozuna defeated Tatanka.

**MEMPHIS, TN
BY PHIL SEAWRIGHT**



**BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
VS.
KOKO B. WARE**



Ever since becoming a fan favorite, Christopher has found it rough going, as the rulebreakers in the USWA have sought revenge. The Southern champion's latest challenge came against Ware, a one-time fan favorite. The two wrestled technically for five minutes before Ware gouged Christopher's eyes; then they started brawling. Ware was disqualified for throwing the referee into Christopher.

OTHER BOUTS: J.C. Ice defeated Johnny West ... Jeff Gaylord beat Del Rios ... USWA champion Jerry Lawler beat Skull Von Crush by countout ... In a back-alley street brawl, Lauren Davenport & Bert Prentice beat Sweet Georgia Brown & Lee Womack ... The Moondogs beat tag team champions The Bruise Brothers by disqualification ... In a lumberjack match, Jerry Lawler & Brian Christopher beat Eddie & Doug Gilbert when Christopher pinned Doug.

**DALLAS, TX
BY CAROLE RANDALL**



**CHRIS ADAMS
VS.
JOHN HAWK**



The "Gentleman" from England won the Global Wrestling Federation heavyweight title from Iceman Parsons on Christmas night, but one of his stiffest challenges since came from Hawk, a brawler in the Bruiser Brody tradition. The former Los Angeles Raiders tackle had a significant height and weight advantage, but Adams' superb technical skills negated the differences. Eventually, Adams caught Hawk off-guard and earned the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: The Gladiator defeated Rod Price by disqualification when Price used a chair ... Moadib pinned Ricky Long ... Chaz Taylor pinned "Crybaby" Buxton ... Iceman Parsons (assisted by Baboose & Brandon Baxter) pinned Brian Henning ... "Crazy" Mike Davis defeated John Hawk by disqualification when Black Bart interfered ... Rod Price pinned Ravin' Robert ... Scott Putski & The Gladiator defeated Black Bart & Moadib.



Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

Write this one down or store it in your memory: On January 23, 1994, Bam Bam Bigelow became a has-been. A crueler person would say he's a has-been that never was, and that statement wouldn't be entirely inaccurate. Bigelow was one of the Wonders of the World when he first entered this game back in the 1980s. Most people thought he couldn't miss, but he has, and it's

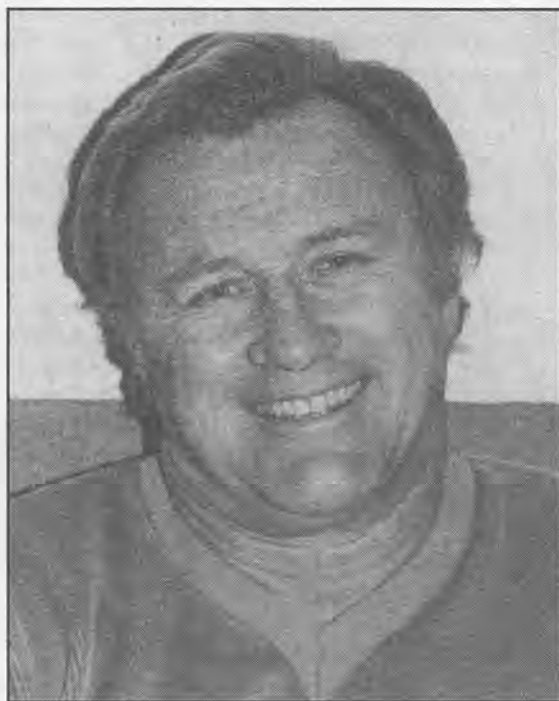
going to take a long time for him to recover from a loss to Tatanka at the Royal Rumble. As usual, Bigelow made a crucial mistake, as important as Thurman Thomas' fumble in the Super Bowl. With Tatanka laying on the mat, Bigelow climbed to the top rope for a moonsault. Bigelow didn't realize that Tatanka wasn't ready to be put away, and he missed by a country mile. You know what they say: The bigger they come, the harder they fall. Bigelow fell hard and was a beaten man in just a lit-

PROVIDENCE, RI

tle more than eight minutes. Not to take anything away from Tatanka, but a wrestler with world title aspirations shouldn't lose to him in anything less than 20 minutes, and then only by a fluke. It just makes you wonder: What makes a wrestler great? Even winning all the Tough Man competitions in the world and tracking down escaped cons doesn't do it. Bigelow looks tough and acts tough, but it turns out that the most spectacular thing about him is that fireball tattoo around his bald head. Even in a world where image supposedly counts for everything, Bigelow can't get by on looks alone, especially when the truth about him has been revealed too many times.

Nick Bockwinkel was a no-nonsense wrestler and is a no-nonsense man, but my advice for him is to take a look at the wrestling history books and learn a little lesson. Maybe that's the only way ol' Nick will ever learn that a federation commissioner is always better off staying out of the fray. Bill Watts feuded with Eddie Gilbert in the old UWF, and it got him absolutely nowhere. Nobody knew whether Cowboy Bill was a commissioner or a wrestler, because commissioners aren't supposed to feud with the men they're governing. This isn't the Old West, although sometimes Cowboy Bill thought it was. Then you have the sad case of Bob Armstrong in Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Masked Bob not only lost his commissionership, he was also kicked out of the federation feet first. Now Bockwinkel. He wasn't on the job in WCW for more than a single day when he got involved in the Big Van Vader and Rick Rude vs. Ric Flair and Sting match at Clash of

BATON ROUGE, LA



NICK BOCKWINKEL

the Champions XXVI. Vader tried to attack Flair and Bockwinkel stepped in between. Harley Race argued with Bockwinkel, but to no avail. Vader and Flair were both counted out. The advice from this corner is that Bockwinkel let situations play themselves out before he sticks his head in. Nick, a desk set would be the best present you ever got.

Liz Hunter's on her high horse again. The broad would've made a great Lady Godiva, even if she isn't much for filling out a dress. Ran into Ms. Hunter during a USWA card here and all she did was complain about the back-alley street brawl pitting Lauren Davenport and Bert Prentice against Sweet Georgia Brown and Lee Womack. The stipulation was that to win, you had to strip the other team of its clothes, and that really got Hunter's goat. "How come these matches always involve women?" she whined. Probably because nobody's dying to see The Moon-dogs in their birthday suits, Lady Liz. It's just like Hunter, whom Rush Limbaugh would probably call a feminazi, to see sexism in everything. In case you didn't notice, Liz, there were two men in the ring, too. Maybe you didn't notice.

WrestleMania X could be a great one, but only if it's Lex Luger vs. Bret Hart for the whole ball of wax. Yokozuna has impressive girth, but he hasn't been an impressive champion and probably would have lost the belt a long time ago if not for Jim Cornette's legal intervention. Luger vs. Hart might not be what the people want—face it, it would force most fans to make a

tough decision—but it would be best for the sport. Think of it this way: The WWF would be guaranteed of a worthy champion after WrestleMania X. Yokozuna is nothing but a sumo wrestler who throws his weight around and waits for the bell to ring. It's hard to recall a single outstanding title defense by the oversized Samoan, and if anyone can, I'd like to hear about it. The WWF was a

NEW YORK, NY

much more interesting place when the "Hitman" had the belt, and there could be some Hogan-like excitement generated if Luger wins the title. Of course, long-time Luger watchers know better than to expect much from him. Nobody, except for the Buffalo Bills, chokes more than Luger in the big game and has done less with more. If it does come down to Luger vs. Hart, I'll take the "Hitman" by a suplex. One word about the war between the Harts: The family will survive. □

MEMPHIS, TN



LEX LUGER vs. BRET HART

CHRISTOPHER:

BRIAN

One year ago, not a fan in Memphis thought that Brian Christopher would become "the next Jerry Lawler." Now he is popular enough to make that claim, something made for years by fans of the man now calling himself "Double J"



HEIR TO KING LAWLER'S THRONE

Photos by Scott George

By Andy Rodriguez

IF BRIAN CHRISTOPHER had remained in the ring a few moments longer after his victory over Buddy Landell, he might have noticed the guy in the third row.

The guy in the third row really is no different from any other fan of Monday night wrestling in Memphis. He cheers and boos along with everyone else. But on this night, he had a message for Christopher.

"I was waving to him, but he didn't see me," the gentleman said. "I wanted to let him know how much we appreciate what he's been doing."

That sort of fan acknowledgement never would have come Christopher's way in the past. Today, however, it is commonplace. He may securely count himself among the USWA's top fan favorites.

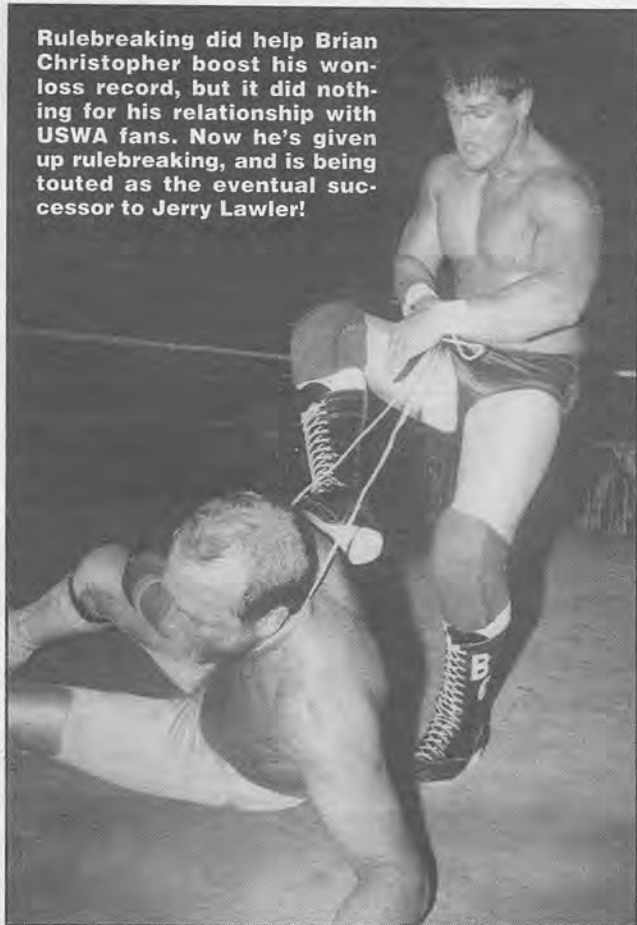
His popularity continues to grow. In fact, he is becoming so popular that he threatens to knock Jerry "The King" Lawler off his throne. It is an amazing accomplishment, one that Christopher downplays, but nevertheless one of which he is proud.

"It really is incredible," Christopher said between bites of a rib at a Beale Street barbecue joint. "You know, it proves how fast things change in this sport, and especially in this organization here. When I first came around, folks couldn't wait to get rid of me. They had good reason to be mad, because I did a lot of rotten things.

"I've toned down, but not too much. Still, they've taken a liking to me. Finally, I learned that I didn't have to scream and shout to get attention. I learned I would get all the recognition I needed just by wrestling. The people knew that



Rulebreaking did help Brian Christopher boost his won-loss record, but it did nothing for his relationship with USWA fans. Now he's given up rulebreaking, and is being touted as the eventual successor to Jerry Lawler!



was young, exciting, and attractive. The fans were behind him solidly. Most importantly, it seemed as though Lawler was grooming him to take over the top spot that "The King" himself has occupied with such distinction.

"It was granted that Jeff was the chosen one," said one USWA promoter. "Jeff was favored in many ways, and not just because his dad is a promoter. Jeff was easily number two most popular behind Lawler. And Lawler himself always wanted it so that if he couldn't be the top dog, then Jeff would."

Until recently, Jarrett was quite satisfied with the arrangement. Several months ago, however, he began getting impatient. He expected success beyond what he had already achieved. To attain that success, he turned to rule-breaking. He also began fancying himself a country-music star, a move insiders said truly indicated just how desperate

If trying to emulate Jerry Lawler means getting in a feud with his perennial rival Eddie Gilbert, then Christopher is willing to do it. That's just another way Christopher has won the affections of Memphis fans.



all along. It took me a while to catch up with them."

Rather than being upset or angered by all the attention this young upstart is grabbing, Lawler seems genuinely pleased with Christopher's career progress.

"Why should I be sore at someone who's trying to emulate 'The King'?" he asked with a laugh. "Seriously, I'm proud of him. He's been able to admit his mistakes, and the people are embracing him for it. Even when I was feuding with him, I always acknowledged he was a kid with considerable talent. My quarrel was what he was doing with that talent—wasting it. Involving himself in pointless feuds that only made him look like a fool.

"Now he's turned the thing around and is being rewarded for it. There isn't anything unusual about that."

Yet as happy as Lawler is for Christopher, he isn't prepared to concede to Brian the affections of his fans.

"I've worked a long time to build my reputation with the folks here," Lawler maintained. "They've had some 20 years to get to know me. I'm no overnight success. Brian is justly popular, but he hasn't come close to approaching what I've done. That takes years of work. I know some guys who should appreciate that fact, but don't."

It took a quick guess to discover that Lawler was alluding to, among others, Jeff Jarrett. "Double J" Jeff Jarrett, as he now prefers.

For years, Jarrett was the golden boy of the USWA. He

Jarrett was to emerge from Lawler's long shadow.

"I believe Jeff's a straight-shooter," said one USWA matchmaker who calls himself a close friend of Jarrett's, "and I think he's sincere in doing this. I mean, he really does enjoy country music. But I have to admit I'm disappointed, and I've told him such. He always prided himself with being against that kind of gimmickry. He just became convinced he had to seek out new ground for himself."

So while Jarrett twangs and fiddles his way up the WWF ladder, Christopher accrues goodwill in the USWA.

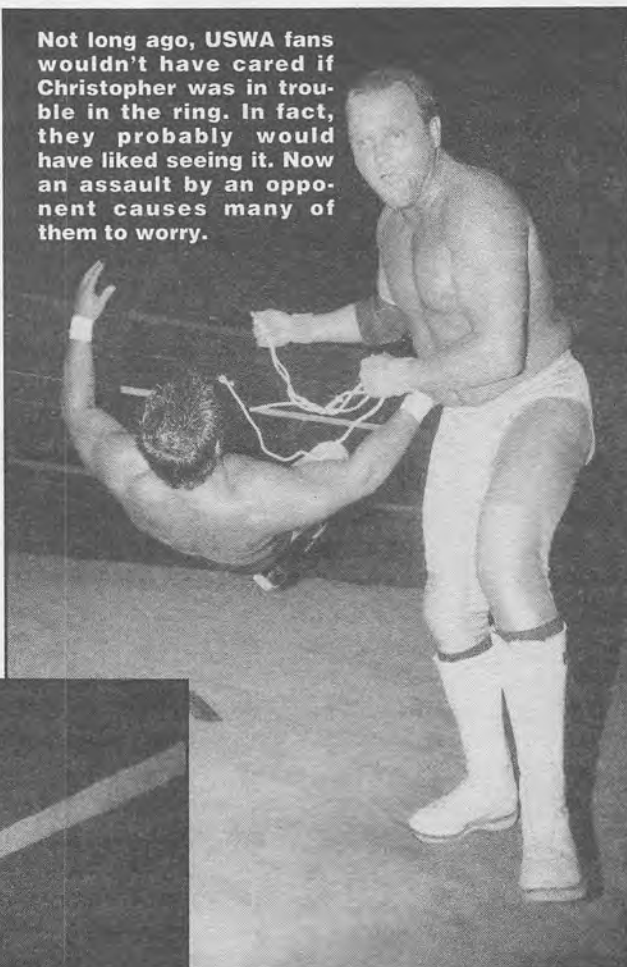
"It's really a shame about Jeff," said Bobby Calhoun of Collierville, Tennessee. "I was always one of his biggest fans. He had his chance and he blew it. I still have a lot of doubts about Brian, but at least he's spending his time in the USWA. At least he's serious about being a wrestler, not a singer."

Christopher claims to care little about Jarrett, who did, after all, abandon him one night and therefore cost them the USWA tag team title. The man who would be "King" says he's actually glad Jarrett walked out.

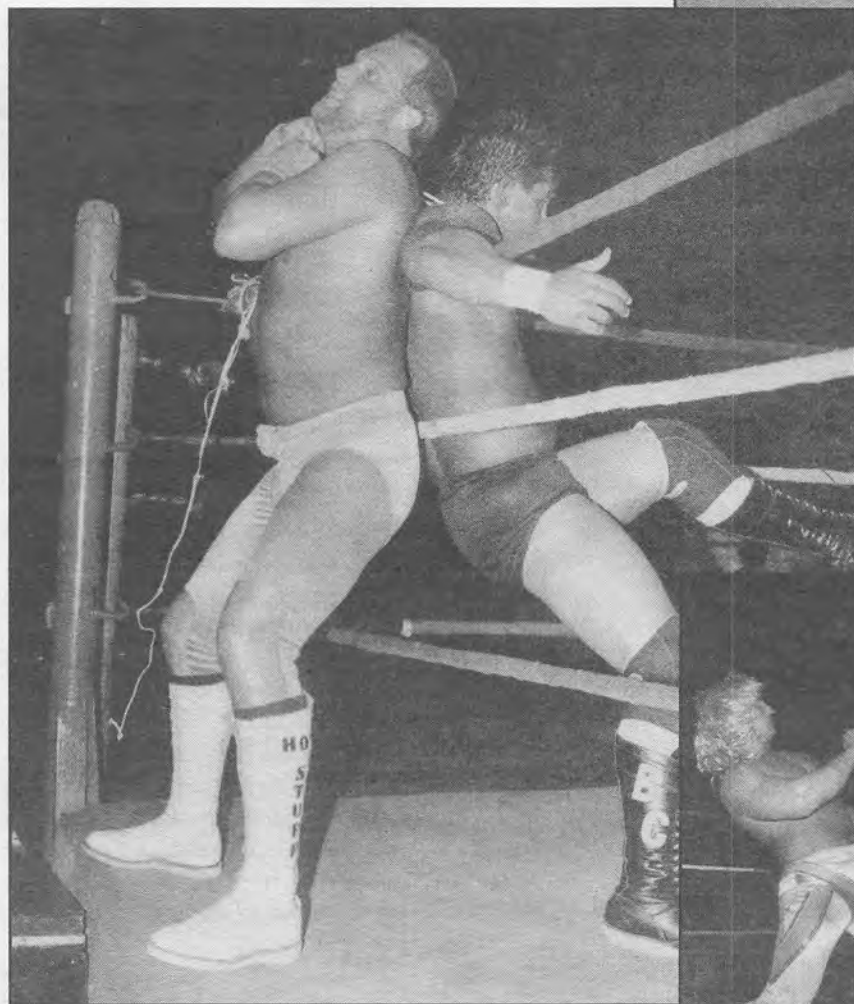
"To be very selfish about it," said Christopher, "if Jeff hadn't done what he did, I wouldn't be as popular as I am right now. The fans really rallied to my side that day. You might say a torch was passed, from me to him. They loved him; now they love me. Okay, maybe love's too strong a word. But I'm on the right track, aren't I?"

You certainly are, Brian. Just don't be in too much of a rush to get where you're going. "King" Lawler hasn't abdicated yet. □

Not long ago, USWA fans wouldn't have cared if Christopher was in trouble in the ring. In fact, they probably would have liked seeing it. Now an assault by an opponent causes many of them to worry.



Jeff Jarrett was for years a beloved USWA fan favorite, Christopher a despised rulebreaker. They were briefly tag teammates, then Jarrett adopted a rulebreaking "Double J" country music persona. Things have come full circle!



Being a former rulebreaker and understanding their mindset has helped Christopher against Gilbert. "I learned I would get all the recognition I needed just by wrestling," Christopher has said of his change.





The Heaviest Match In History?

BASTION BOOGER



By Eddie Ellner

RELAX, LOS ANGELES. That was no earthquake you just heard. It was just Yokozuna bumping into Bastion Booger.

Actually, no one's heard this sound yet. The WWF World champion has yet to take on the gross one. But there are many who would love to see these two super heavyweights go at it, if only for the novelty. The pair might elicit the same kind of snickering fan response as midget wrestling did in its heyday a generation ago.

"I would get a kick out of watching these fat bodies wiggle and jiggle," enthused one ringside fan.

"They could film a gelatin commercial on that card," cracked another.

There's been talk that Bastion Booger and Yokozuna may meet in a battle of super heavyweights. But down through the years, there have been battles between guys who would make this pair look puny

Not Even Close!

YOKOZUNA

Clearly, the prospect of watching 895 pounds of human flesh would have fan interest peaking, but for all the wrong reasons. It would be wrestling as circus: Come See Two Fat Men Perform Feats Of Amazing Daring-Do!

Though Yokozuna is among the top wrestlers in the world—anyone who holds a world title for more than half a year must be taken seriously—more people are interested in When Stomachs Collide.

These fans should know that, historically speaking, a Yokozuna-Booger match would be downright lightweight compared to previous battles of the bulges.

From the late-1950s into the 1970s, 602-pound widebody legend

Haystacks Calhoun was the reigning super-duper heavyweight, and, believe it or not, he wasn't nearly the biggest man wrestling.

Haystacks, who died in 1989, is most remembered (much to his perpetual dismay) for his matches against fellow fatties Happy Humphrey, who at one point weighed a gargantuan 802 pounds, and Man Mountain Mike, who toppled the scales at a svelte 620.

Calhoun and Humphrey often wrestled at the old Washington Coliseum on cards run by Vince McMahon Sr., and the rumbles emanating from their matches often were





Talk about "bounce to the ounce"! When Happy Humphrey (left) battled Haystacks Calhoun, they combined for nearly three-quarters of a ton. In contrast, Yokozuna and Bastion Booger total less than 900 pounds.

- louder than those of the trains passing by from nearby Union Station. When Calhoun, Humphrey, or Mike met, special steel-enforced ropes had to be employed. On one memorable occasion, it wasn't enough.

"Haystacks whipped Humphrey into the ropes and Happy got tangled up," recalled *INSIDE WRESTLING* founder Stanley Weston. "Haystacks pressed his advantage and smashed into him. The momentum caused the ring to come off its foundation and collapse sideways. It's a miracle no one got killed."

Though it was memorable for Weston, Haystacks bristled every time the moment was raised. "I've accomplished so many things in my career, I don't understand why that one thing is so important," he'd respond angrily. "Why don't you ask me about my title matches?"

Indeed, Haystacks was one of the most successful tag team wrestlers in history. He teamed with most of the WWF's superstars, and, with Tony Garea and Chief Jay Strongbow, twice captured the WWF tag team title.

"Haystacks was the first super heavyweight to actually practice," remembers Weston. "Humphrey and Mike were fat men who made their living solely because of their appeal to promoters. Haystacks trained. He studied opponents. He watched films. He hated to be considered a sideshow attraction, and in fact had a reasonable amount of mobility."

While Calhoun and Mike frequently wrestled each other, often at the famed Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, they also occasionally teamed up—combining for more than 1,200 pounds of girth. (The McGuire twins, Billy and Benny, were even heavier at 1,300 pounds. They were famous for entering the ring on motorized mini-bikes.)

Fans in the Bay Area may recall when Calhoun and Mike defeated Mr. Saito and Kinji Shibuya by disqualification in 1970 at San Francisco's Cow Palace. The Japanese pair retained the tag team title only because Saito grabbed Calhoun's traditional good-luck horseshoe hung on his ring post and began beating Haystacks over the head with it. Mike and a bleeding Calhoun gained revenge by splashing their rivals and knocking them unconscious.

Haystacks never gained that type of solo glory back east.

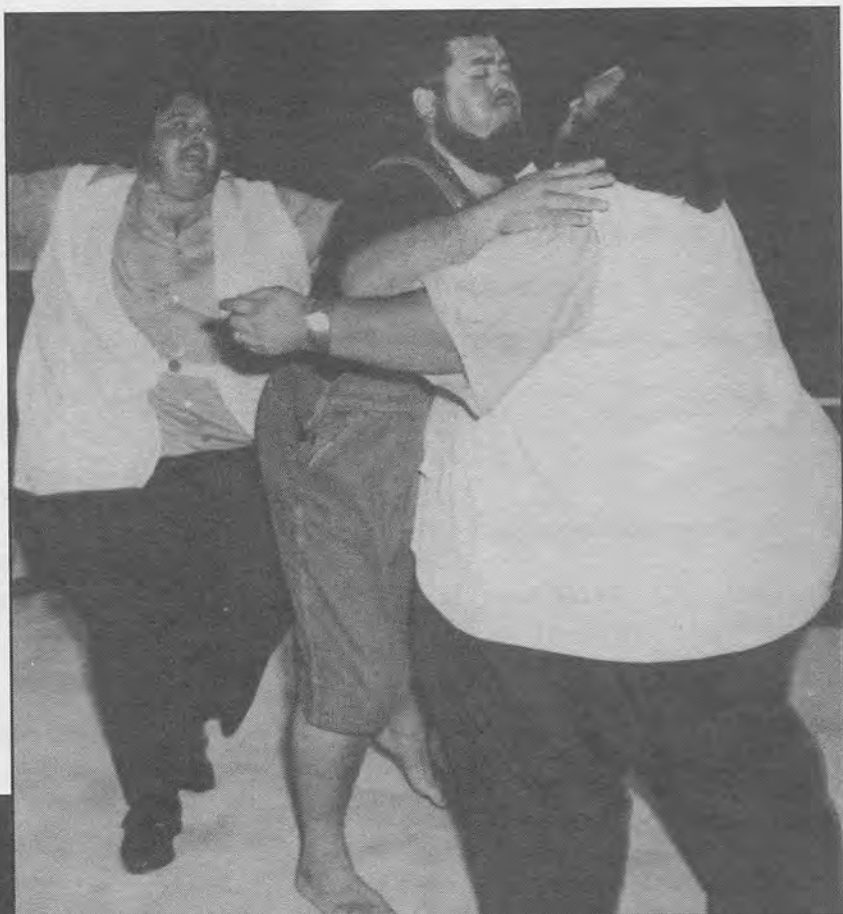
"It bothered him that he never got a shot at the WWF title," Weston said. "He felt he deserved it, but in the promoters' eyes he, much like Andre the Giant, were more valuable as special attractions. He was angry in the end, bitter by the mistreatment, the same way the lack of respect turned Andre ugly toward the end of his career."

No one laughs at the super heavyweights anymore. Until he dropped his crown to Ric Flair, 450-pound Big Van Vader was the world's top ranked wrestler, with Yokozuna trailing close behind. Vader has moves conventional-sized wrestlers of Calhoun's era would have envied.

"All pro athletes have benefitted from advancements in exercise and nutrition," says Weston. "To look at Vader, one would not consider him fat, or in any way out of shape. He's an athlete."

Although Yokozuna's girth is more pronounced than Vader's, the former sumo champion is quick and agile for a man weighing better than a quarter-ton. And that's something Booger, himself no midget at 345 pounds, would have to discover.

Yokozuna is anxious to take on a man nearly his own size. "It reminds him of sumo," said American spokesman Jim Cornette. "But more importantly, down the road he wants to demonstrate his clear superiority as a wrestler against men his own size. People think he wins on bulk and bulk alone, and that isn't true. The guy has skills, and knows people don't perceive that he has them." □



Even the gargantuan Calhoun found it hard to take on wrestling's heaviest one-two punch, the McGuire twins. Billy and Benny teamed up at an amazing 1,300 pounds.

Veteran Los Angeles wrestling fans probably remember when Man Mountain Mike and Calhoun regularly faced each other at the Olympic Auditorium. These titans both weighed more than 600 pounds, and occasionally were tag team partners.

There's never been stability in

Lex Luger's career.

*Ups are followed by sudden
downs and vice versa.*

*It's impossible to predict what
WrestleMania X has in store for
him, but surely something
dramatic will happen*

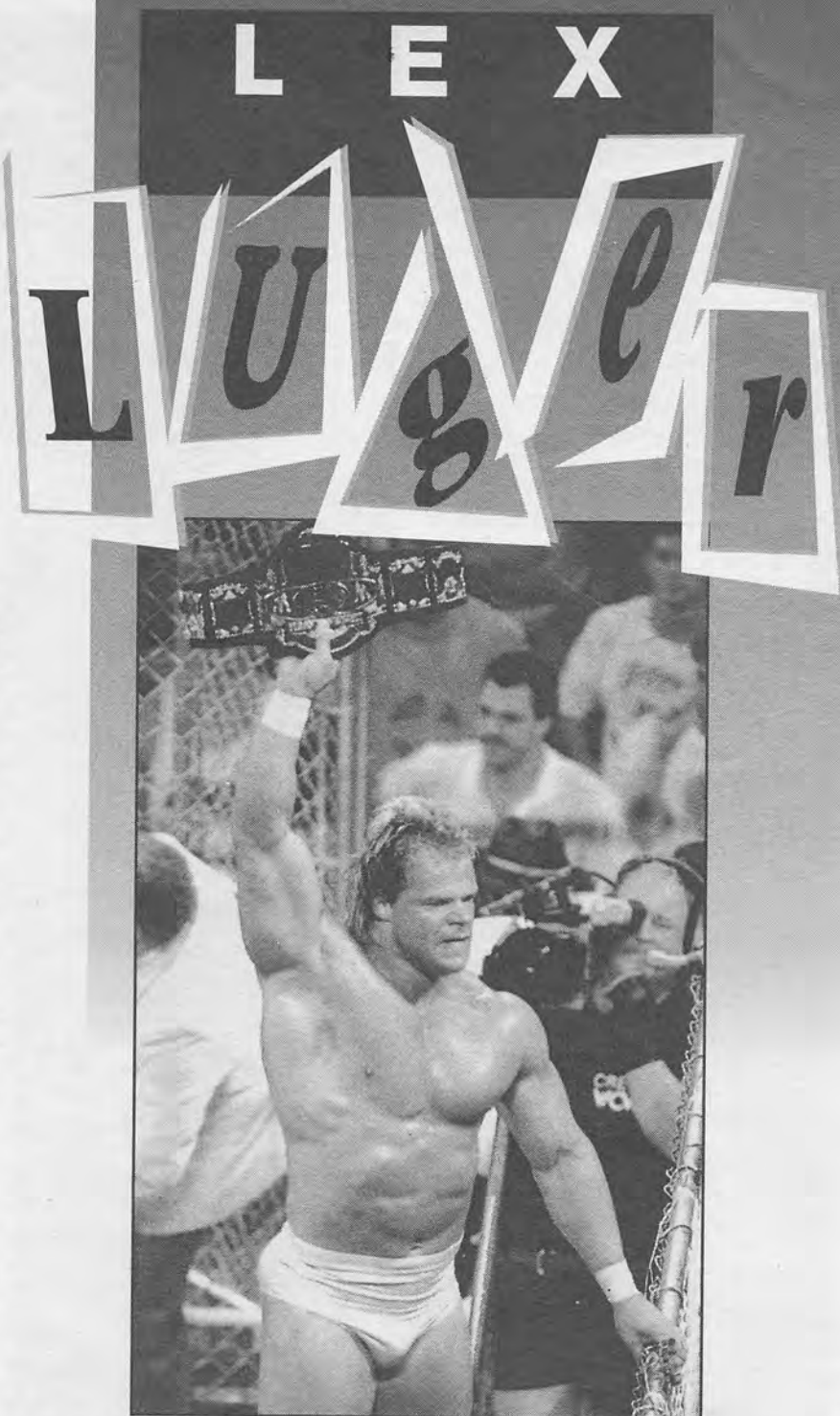
By Dave Rosenbaum

LEX LUGER'S CAREER cannot be viewed in separate scenes. The narrow-sighted observer runs the risk of seeing him as either a disappointing underachiever or a talented individual who has been cheated out of his rightful destiny. Luger is seen as either rulebreaker or fan favorite, but never both. His worst decisions are spotlighted; so are his best.

Better yet, gaze upon the entire picture and see Luger for what he really is: a complex athlete whose career has experienced more than the normal ups and downs. His triumphs are, indeed, great, and his tragedies are, indeed, grave and career-threatening. There is little in between. Rarely does the blip of his life follow a straight path.

Even in what should be sports' most stable moment, a tie, Luger went through a series of maddening highs and lows. He moved quickly from victor to loser to neither in a matter of minutes, as the Royal Rumble shook wrestling and the federation. Finally, he settled for a quick handshake with Bret

(Continued on page 50)



THEIR GREATEST TRIUMPHS

BRET

Hart



After a career filled with ups and downs, Bret Hart knows the best—and worst—possibly awaits him at WrestleMania X. A showdown with his brother Owen might be a prelude to Bret's ascension to the WWF World title

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE WORST PART of it for Bret Hart is that the ordeal isn't over. He would like to look back at January 22, 1994, and say it was the worst day of his life, but the truth is he cannot say that with any certainty. March 20, 1994, might be worse.

He knows this because at the time, November 24, 1993, seemed to be the worst day of his life. On that day, Owen Hart's bitterness toward his brother saw the light for the first time, and a silent and unknown family problem became embarrassing public knowledge.

Then, having apparently put the events of Thanksgiving Eve behind him and his family, Bret experienced the awful events of the Royal Rumble. The pain in the "Hitman's" left leg wasn't anything near the excruciating anguish he felt when Owen once again let his bitterness pour forth, hot and destructive like the molten lava from Mount St. Helens.

Finally, there was this: The undeniable truth that he would have to wrestle against his brother at WrestleMania X, that his beloved younger sibling

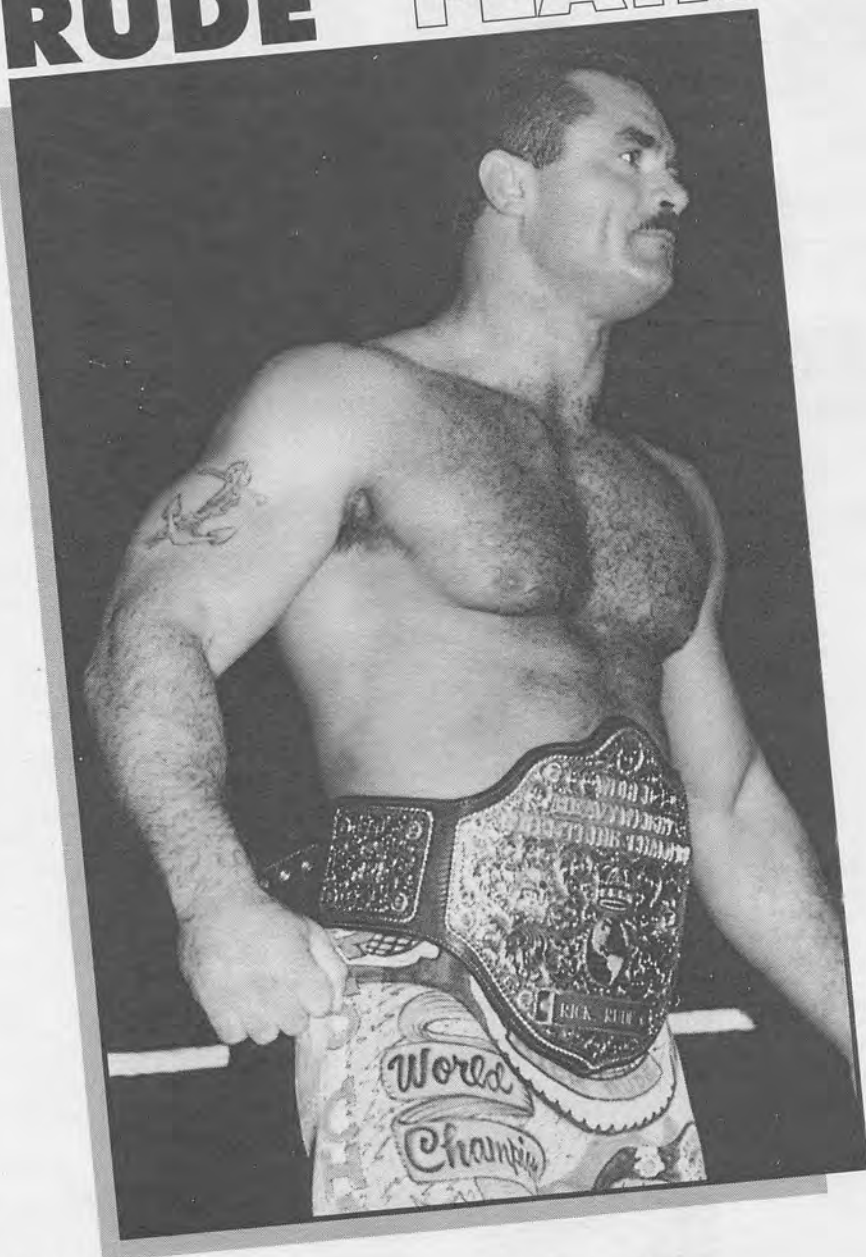
(Continued on page 52)

THEIR GRAVEST TRAGEDIES

UNIFY WCW'S TITLES— NOW!

Ric Flair is the WCW World champion. Rick Rude has something called the International heavyweight title. Confused? So are we. The federation needs to get its act together and merge the belts. It worked before

Rick **VS.** Ric
RUDE **FLAIR**



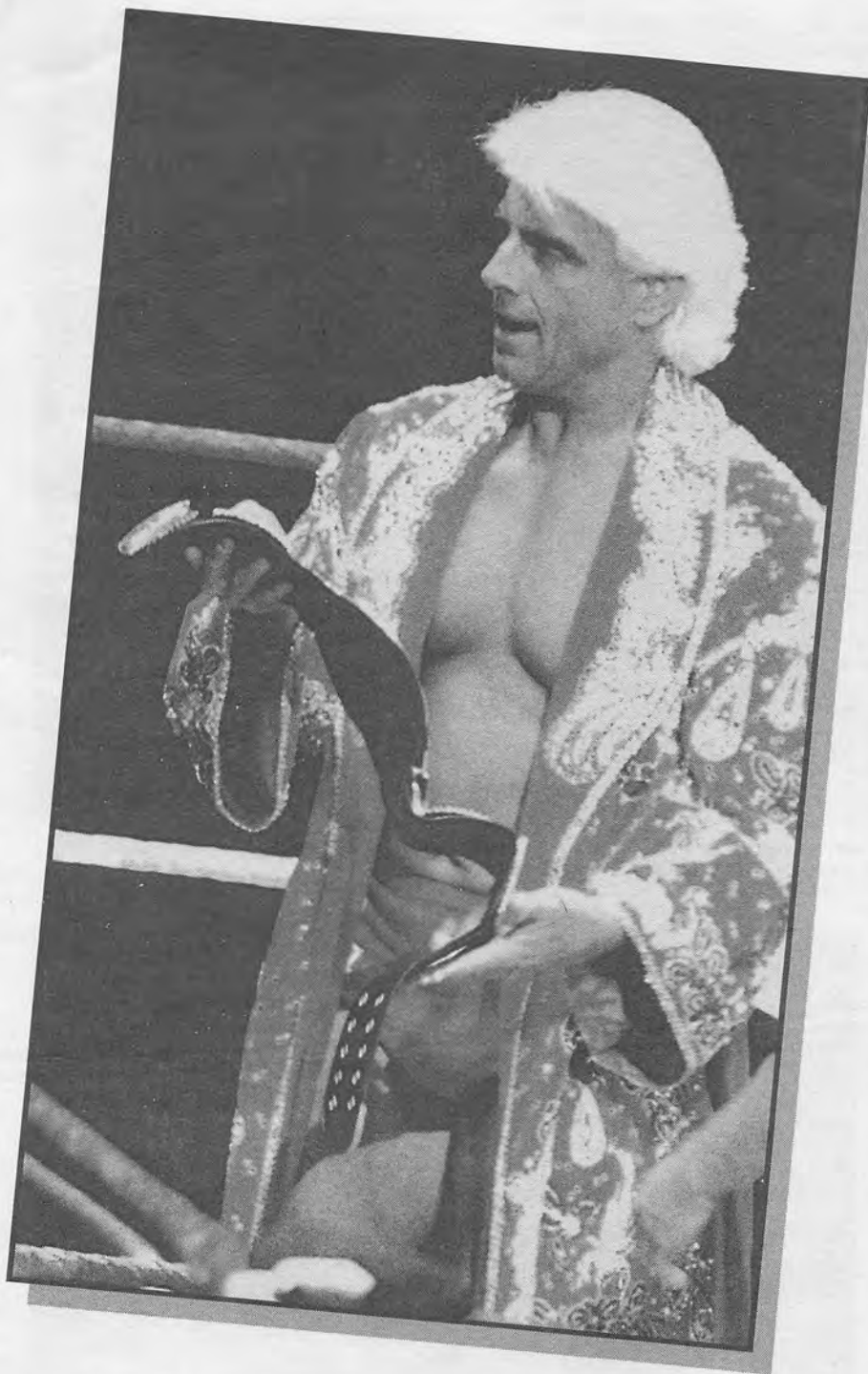
By Dave Rosenbaum

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1986, in Atlanta, Nikita Koloff and Wahoo McDaniel met in a controversial match of epic proportions. Koloff, who had recently defeated Magnum T.A. in a grueling best-of-seven series for the U.S. title, and McDaniel, the National champion,

battled to unify the belts.

The match was an epic because of the stakes involved: One man would leave the ring without a belt. It was controversial for an entirely different reason: No matter who won, the National title would cease to exist. It was being phased out in favor of the U.S. title.

Many people were outraged that



the National title was given short shrift. The belt had a rich history and had been worn by some of the sport's all-time greats. Eliminating it seemed unfair and shortsighted.

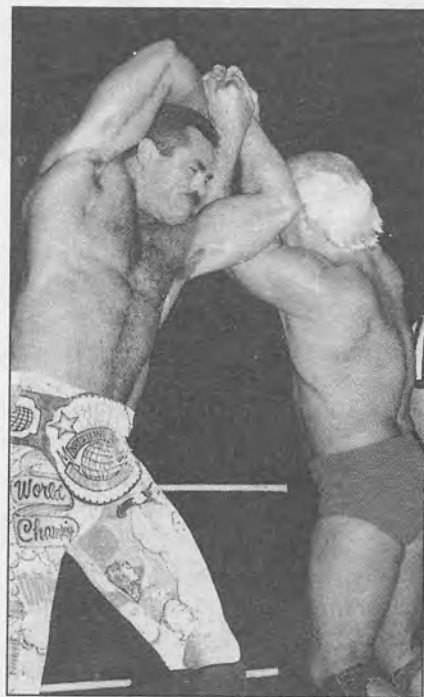
But the men behind the decision had a simple rationale for the unification bout: By merging—rather than eliminating—one title into the other, they were strengthening the

value of the U.S. title. Rather than the whole being the sum of its parts—thus, U.S. title vs. National title equals U.S. National title—the U.S. title would end up twice as strong.

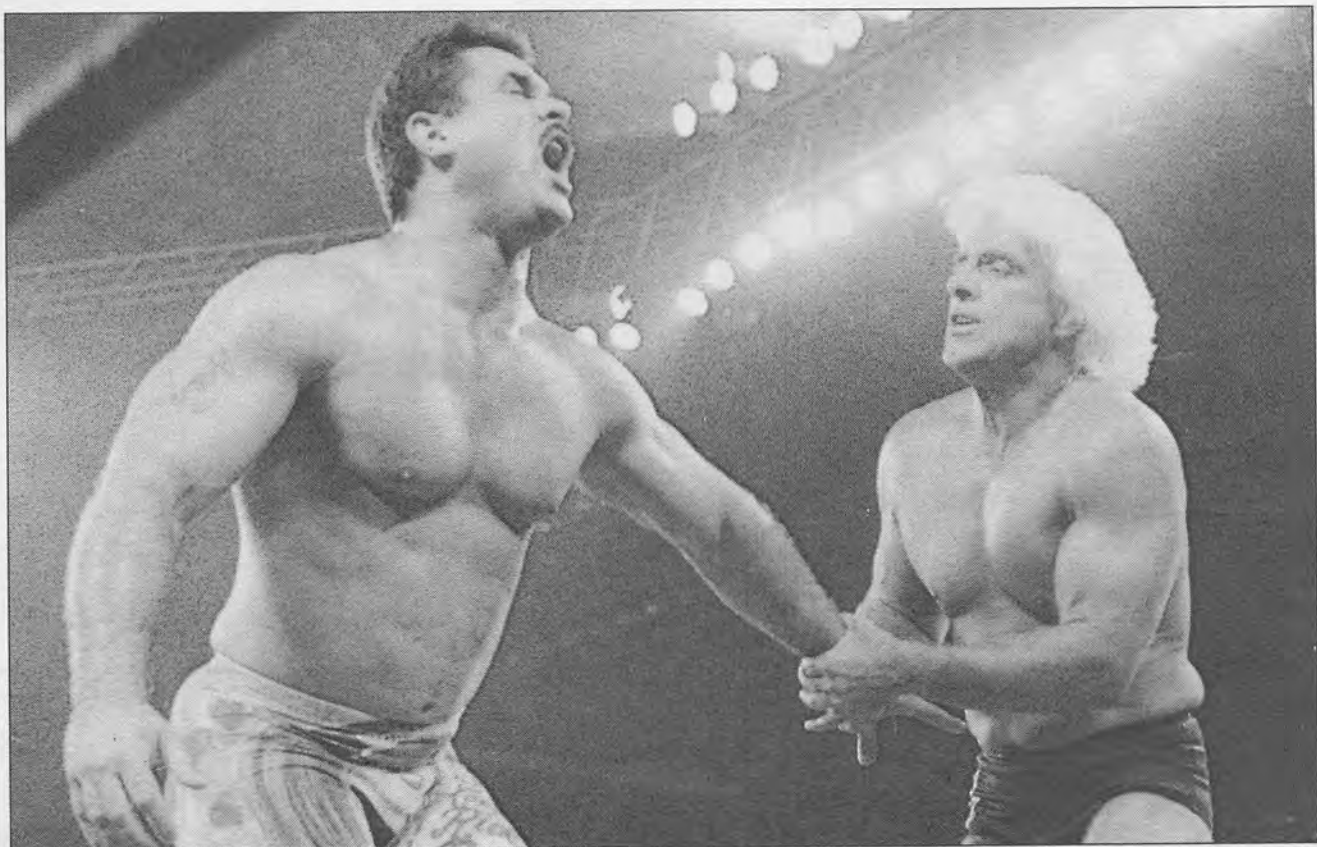
Koloff defeated McDaniel that night, but the events of the following years were far more significant. Indeed, the U.S. title grew in pres-



Rick Rude battles Ric Flair before the "Nature Boy" surprised Big Van Vader for the WCW World title. Rude holds a title, too, the International heavyweight belt, though it's not recognized by *INSIDE WRESTLING* or its related magazines.



As usual, nice-looking trunks, Mr. Rude. But if you want them to be accurate, we suggest you now defeat Flair, who has the title that *really* matters.

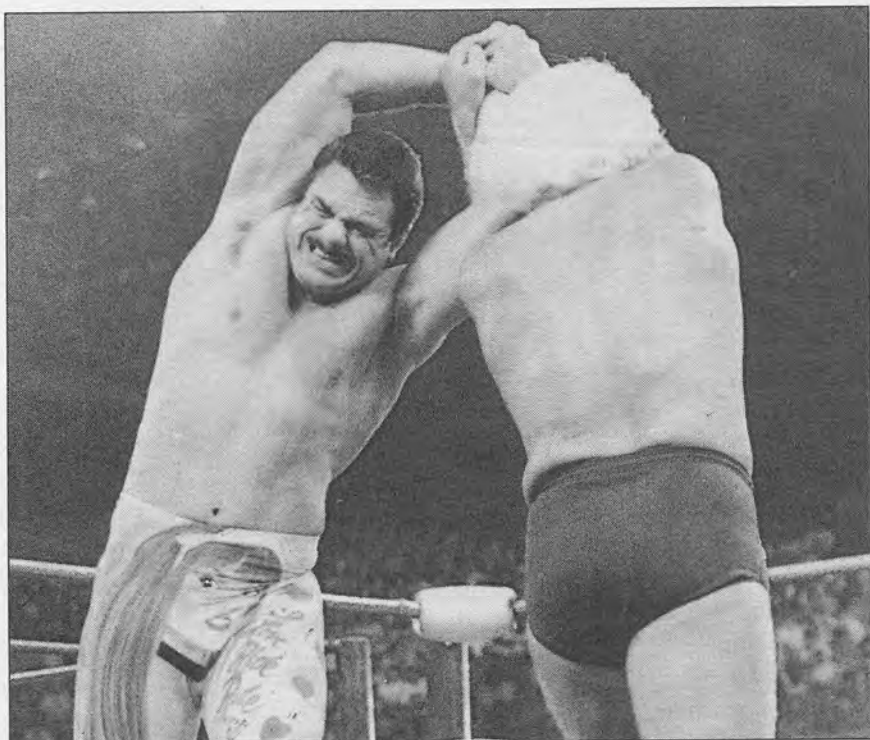


Rude and Flair have had an intense rivalry for nearly one year. It would make perfect sense for them to meet to finally unify WCW's two "world" championship belts.

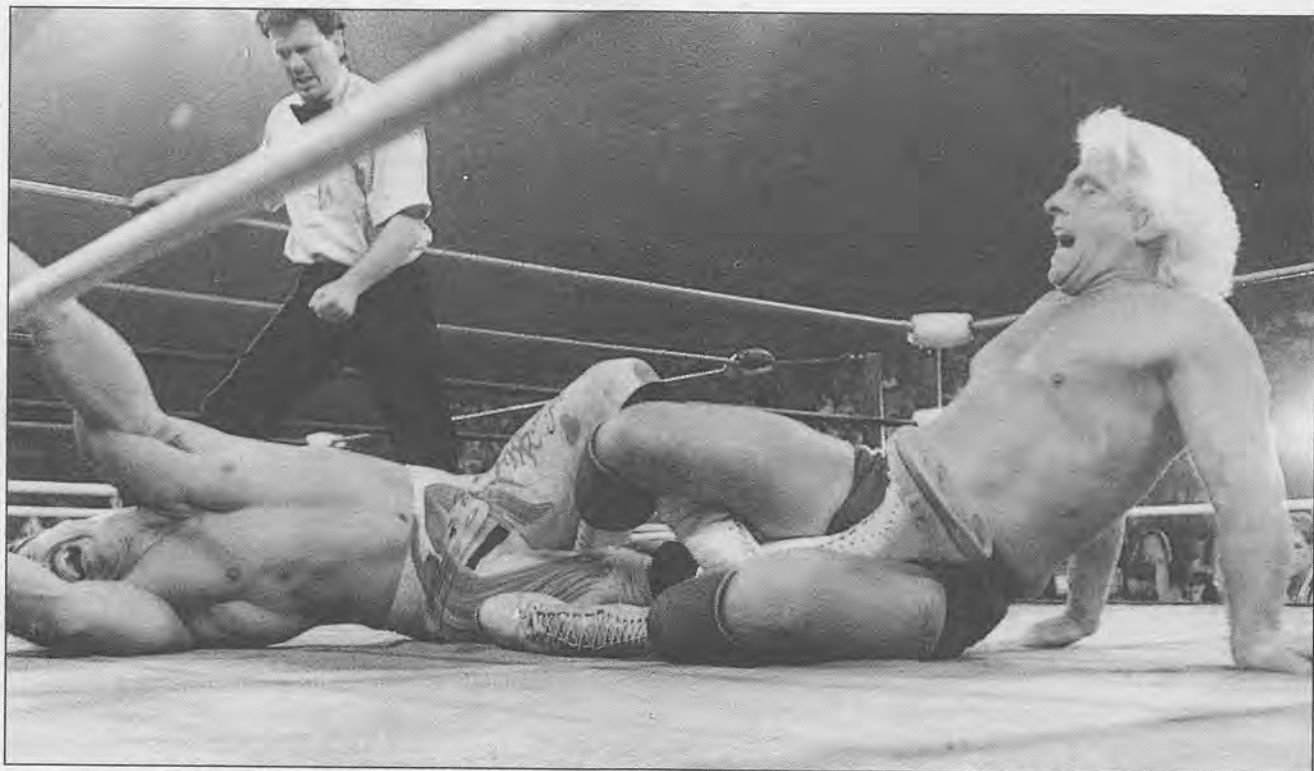
tige. Its holders since have included Lex Luger, Dusty Rhodes, Barry Windham, Michael Hayes, Stan Hansen, Sting, Rick Rude, Dustin Rhodes, and Steve Austin. That's quite an impressive list, and includes four world champions.

We tell the U.S./National title story now because history has come nearly full-circle in WCW. As was the case in 1986, WCW has too many titles. Prestige is being spread too thin. There's World champion Ric Flair and U.S. champion Steve Austin. Then there's Rick Rude, who holds a title not recognized by this magazine: the International heavyweight title.

The International belt's history is somewhat dubious. Its origins can be traced back only as far as August 12, 1992, when Masa Chono beat Rude in a tournament final for the NWA title. Last summer, however, WCW officials decided to withdraw from the NWA.



Ironically, the title Rude now holds was created in 1992, when he lost a tournament final to Masa Chono. Then it was known as the NWA title, although that name was dropped last summer when WCW withdrew from the NWA.



Both Flair and Rude have said they'd like to unify the title belts. All that remains is for WCW officials to feel likewise, and finally sanction a match.

No longer able to use the name NWA, WCW officials created the "International" title to fill the void.

So, Ric Flair reigns, Rick Rude reigns, and, most of all, confusion reigns.

And that's why the time is right for WCW to once again make the whole greater than the sum of its parts. The opponents, Rude vs. Flair, are perfect. It's time to unify the World and International titles. Even Flair and Rude agree on this.

"Why not?" Flair said. "I've never liked the idea of having too many belts. It just waters things down. Having one instead of two would make my belt a lot more valuable and there'd be a heckuva lot less confusion. Besides, it would be my pleasure to take Rude's belt away."

"Flair would have no chance of beating me, but that's not why I'd want a unification match," Rude said. "They say two heads are better than one, but in this case, one belt is better than two. If WCW wanted, there could be 10 or 20

belts. The only thing that matters is who's best."

Our reasons for a title unification match are somewhat selfish: We'd love to see WCW get rid of the title we don't recognize.

But there are other reasons, paramount of which is the Rude-Flair feud.

Flair had the unrecognized belt when Rude confronted him on August 30 at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. On September 19 at Fall Brawl in Houston, Rude blasted Flair with a pair of brass knuckles and pinned him for the title. The Flair-Rude feud was vicious and often childish. Fifi, Flair's maid, got into the fray when she slapped Rude and was kissed passionately in return.

The Flair-Rude feud continued at Halloween Havoc. Flair was disqualified for using a foreign object Rude had intended to use. Their feud, hot as it was, didn't go any further because Flair targeted Vader for the World title at

Starrcade '93.

Now it's time for the ultimate rematch. Flair won the World title from Vader. Rude, too, has been a successful champion. Both men are laying claim to the No. 1 spot in the WCW ratings. We say Flair deserves it, but that's merely our opinion; Rude also calls himself world champion.

This confusion is bad for WCW. How are newcomers supposed to understand that the federation has two world champions? WCW can take much of the blame for this confusion. It seemed to consider Flair as an equal champion last summer when he won the NWA title, even though Vader had the World belt. When Flair lost the title to Rude and went after Vader, WCW suddenly gave the World title top billing.

The solution is obvious. WCW can clear up the confusion and schedule 1994's Match of the Year: Flair vs. Rude. It worked in 1986. It can work again. □



RICK MORTON

"I CRIED WHEN THEY ATTACKED MY FATHER"

WHEN IS THE war between The Rock 'n' Roll Express and Jim Cornette going to end? After the latest incident involving Rick Morton and Cornette, who knows?

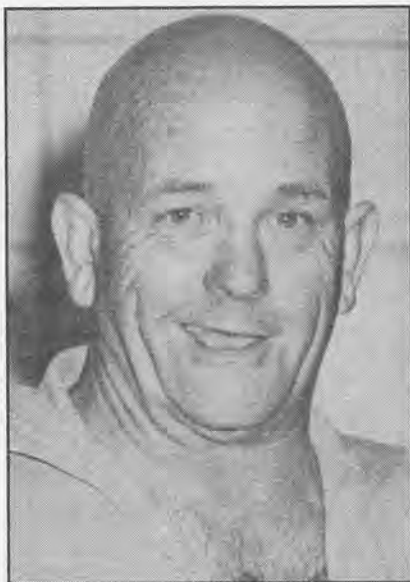
This battle began with what should have been a very pleasant surprise for Morton. His longtime partner in The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Robert Gibson, arranged to have Morton's father, Paul Morton, flown in for a Smoky Mountain card. The elder Morton, a veteran referee, had not seen his son for quite some time. The stage was set for a happy reunion.

Leave it to Cornette to ruin everything. In a restroom before the card at which Morton wrestled Smoky Mountain TV titlist Chris Candido, Paul Morton was attacked by Cornette and his Heavenly Bodies. The vicious assault left him blind in one eye. Only after the match did Rick discover what had happened to his dad.

Cornette claimed that Paul Morton had been spying on him and his men while they were strategizing for that night's bout. He says he fought back in self-defense only after Morton had slapped him. Morton admits to striking Cornette after the controversial manager goaded him into a confrontation. He says he had no idea Cornette and his men would be in the bathroom at that time.

Naturally, Rick Morton is desperate to avenge his father, but things

are not so simple. Cornette has obtained an injunction stating that if Rick lays a hand on him anywhere outside a wrestling ring, he will be suspended from Smoky Mountain. The situation has left Morton furious, a fury experienced firsthand by Senior Writer Andy Rodriguez.



Retired referee Paul Morton (pictured 20 years ago), father of Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express, was savagely beaten by The Heavenly Bodies after a run-in with Jim Cornette.

Q: Rick, I've never seen you this worked up.

A: (shouting) Wouldn't you be ticked off? Wouldn't you be? Damn, everytime I think about it I get sick. I should've been there for my dad.

Q: What could you have done to stop it? You didn't even know he was in town.

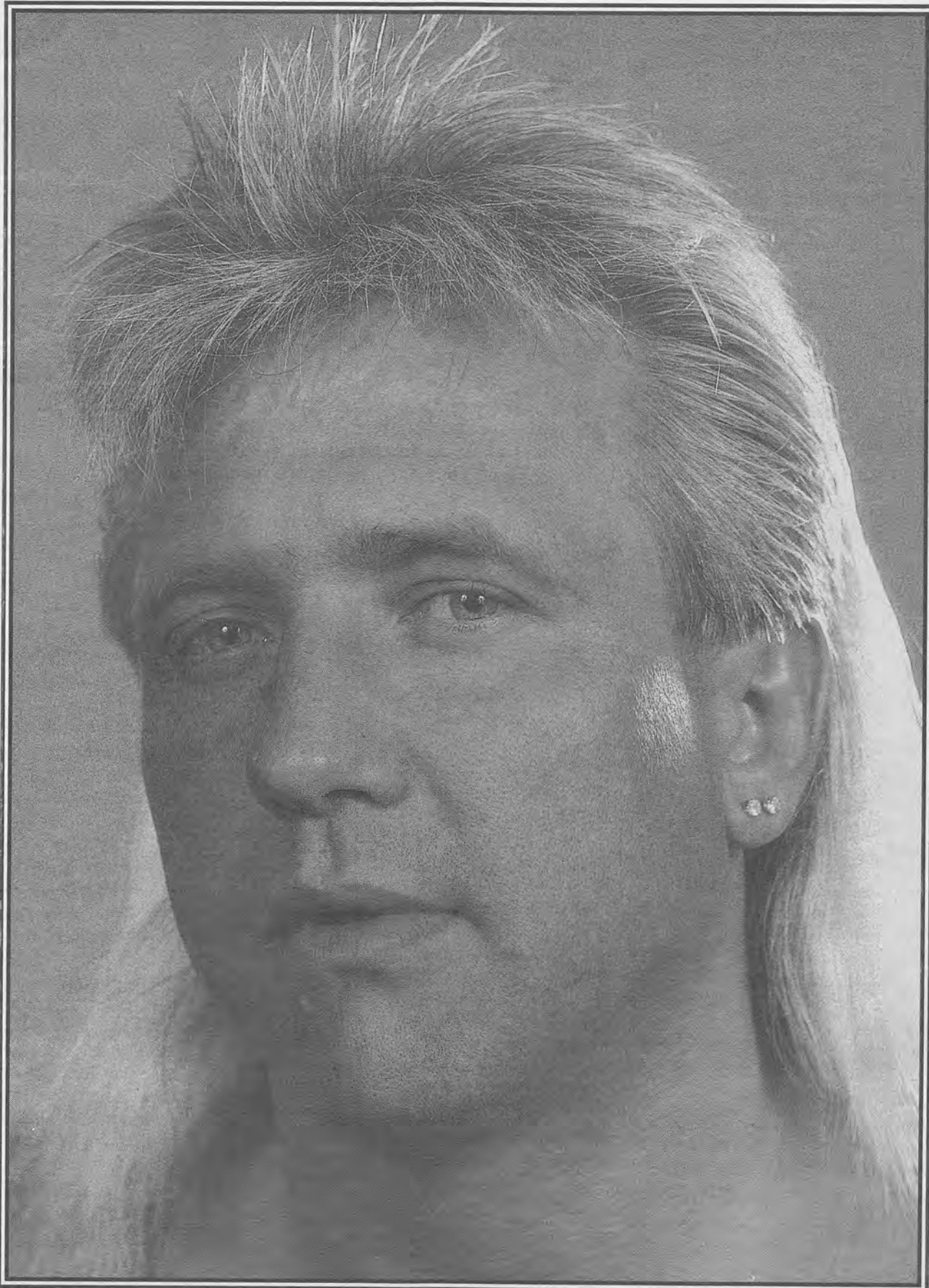
A: I know that. That's what I keep telling myself. I just keep getting this feeling that it's my fault. I know it doesn't make much sense, but there it is. (pauses) This time Cornette is really gonna pay!

Q: By the way, how is your dad doing?

A: He's getting better, thank goodness. He still doesn't have sight in that eye, but the doctors are hopeful that'll clear up. His bruises are starting to heal. Cornette's bruises, I promise you, will not!

Q: But the only way you'll get your hands on him is if he agrees to wrestle you. It's hard to see that happening.

A: That's typical of Cornette, to cook up all sorts of ways to protect his big, fat behind. And, man, I'm tired of it, really tired! He runs to court and gets this lawyer or that judge to do him a favor. You know, Andy, I try to do things the right way. I try to play by the rules. I don't ask for special favors. In other words, I'm everything that Cornette isn't. Ten years of fighting this clown and he hasn't changed one little bit. No, he has changed. He's gotten worse. I'm starting to come to the conclusion that I'll have to fight him on his own terms. I've always said that I'd never let the people down. I was a rulebreaker once, and it was



the biggest mistake I ever made. But maybe it's time to throw the rules out. Maybe that's the way you deal with somebody like Cornette.

Q: Have you discussed this with your father?

A: I sure have. He knows where I'm coming from. He might be a referee, but he knows that sometimes you have to take extra mea-

ing what Cornette and his boys started. Okay, so I'll stoop to his level until the job is done. But I'd never do anything to dishonor myself, my family, or my fans.

Q: And Robert Gibson is with you on this?

A: Absolutely. Gibbie's been the best through this whole thing. You know, he kind of blamed himself for this, too, because he's the one who brought my dad in. I told him to stop worrying about that and start thinking about how we're gonna deal with Cornette and The Heavenly Bodies. Me and Gibbie are still the best tag team around. There's no doubt about it. The Bodies are good, but they need

cool, because me and my partner have a few secret plans of our own. Maybe I can't touch Cornette, but I can start with his Bodies.

Q: Still, you don't seem to blame them for the attack on your dad nearly as much as you do Cornette.

A: Listen, Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard are gonna pay big-time. That's a promise. But we all know who the ringleader is. Cornette instigated this whole thing. He knew exactly what he was doing. The Bodies couldn't care less about me or my dad. They just do what Cornette tells them. On the other hand, they need to realize they'll be responsible for their actions.

Q: Your dad admits to slapping Cornette. Would you concede that Cornette had somewhat of a right to fight back?

A: Are you serious, man? The way my father tells it—and I believe his side of the story 100 percent—is that Cornette egged him on. My dad's a proud man and maybe his temper did get the best of him, so he gave Cornette a good slap in the head. But in no way does that justify what happened next. Why would Cornette need the Bodies to help him defend himself? Was he afraid of my dad? Cornette may be a lot younger, but it would've been a fair fight. And why do you blind a man just because he slapped you? All this was was a cold-blooded assault on a good and decent man. I

don't buy Cornette's excuses for a second. This was an attack directed right at me. Cornette thought he'd humiliate and embarrass my family, but he's only made us stronger. He's only brought him-



Morton promises that The Heavenly Bodies' Tom Prichard will pay a steep price for having attacked his father. It's just another chapter in the rivalry between the Rock 'n' Rolls and the Bodies.

somebody like Cornette leading them around by the nose. The Rock 'n' Roll Express beats 'em every time in a fair fight, but we all know with Cornette there's no such thing as a fair fight. That's

"Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard are gonna pay big-time. That's a promise. But we all know who the ringleader is. Cornette instigated this whole thing. He knew exactly what he was doing."

sures. Believe me, he'd rather see me and Cornette duke it out in the middle of the ring, but his attitude is that whatever happens happens, because Cornette surely deserves it.

Q: Sounds like you're flirting with rulebreaking again.

A: No way, brother. I'm just finish-

self this much closer to being run out of wrestling forever, and all the lawyers in the world won't be able to save his butt.

Q: Will your dad join you at ringside when you face the Bodies or Cornette?

A: If you're implying that my pop might somehow be afraid of those guys, then you're dead wrong. Us Mortons absolutely do not back down for one second. Heck, Dad keeps saying that when his eye gets better he'll jump in the ring and take on Cornette and his men himself! I might have to calm down Dad a bit, but that shows you what kind of a man he is. They can take his sight for a little while, but they can never touch his spirit. He raised me the same way. By now Cornette should know what I'm made of, but I guess I'll have to keep drivin' the message into his fat head. And with my father at ringside, it'll be

that much more of a pleasure.

Q: You also compete in the WWF. I assume your career there is on hold.

A: Yeah, it has to be. This situation is my priority. The WWF's a great place. I enjoy facing the people there, and the fans have been great. But I have to keep my focus on Cornette. On the other hand, we may end up taking this thing to the WWF as well. Fine with me. Cornette has a lot of buddies there, but so do I. He can't best me anywhere.

Q: Has the attack on your father made you reassess your priorities?

A: What do you mean?

Q: Have any thoughts like, *Well, now they're going after*

my family. This is too much. Maybe it's time for me to quit?

A: *(long pause)* You know, this is a tough sport. I don't have to tell you that, but you can only know how tough it is if you've stepped through the ropes. Every night me and my partner fight the biggest, strongest, meanest men in the world. After 20 years I've developed a thick skin, and even guys like Cornette know I give as good as I get. But, yeah, what they did to Dad really was different. You know, I cried when they attacked



If Morton had his way, he'd directly go after Cornette, whom he claims orchestrated the assault on his dad. However, Cornette has obtained a legal injunction preventing Morton from attacking him outside the ring.



For now, Morton will have to be content with battling the Bodies and avoiding Prichard's potent DDT. But he promises he'll get even with Cornette and company.

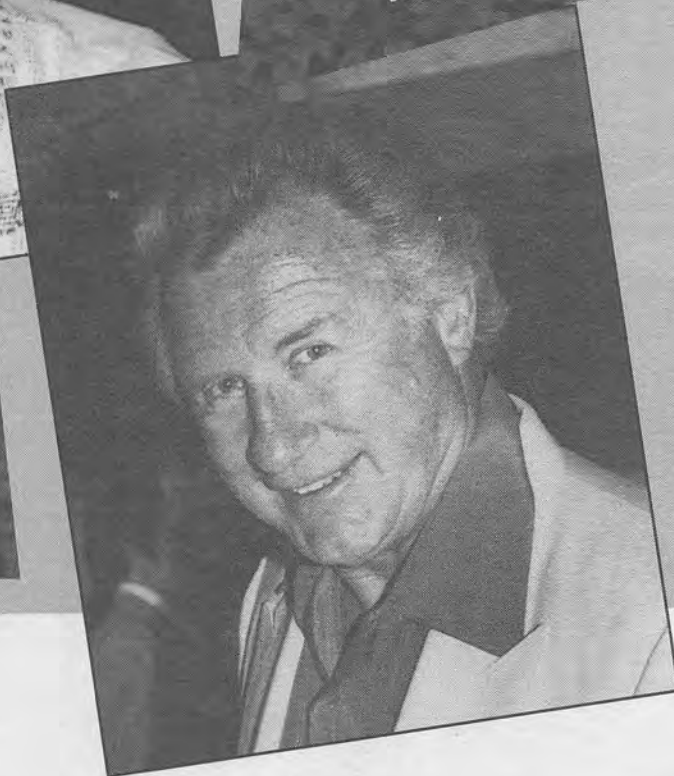
my father. Hadn't cried for years, but that night I did. Like I said before, on one level it toughened me up, made me even hungrier to get Cornette. But at times during this whole thing, I've wondered if it's worth it. Dad could easily be targeted again. I put nothing past Cornette. I mean, who am I to subject my father to that? But for right now, I have to put those questions aside. I have to concentrate on paying back Cornette and his boys for what they did to Dad. I owe that to my father. I at least owe him that. □

WCW POLITICAL NIGHTMARE



Bobby Heenan:
"I Have The WCW
Commissioner In My Hip
Pocket!"

Nick Bockwinkel:
"Our Friendship Is All
In The Past"



*Now that he's in WCW and sees
old friend Nick Bockwinkel in
the commissioner's seat, Bobby
Heenan believes he can have
his run of the federation.
Bockwinkel calls that wishful
thinking*

By Kostya Kennedy

OVER THE YEARS he has been perhaps the baddest and loudest of the bad, loud boys in wrestling. He has flexed his wrestling knowledge in the ring, and particularly outside of it. He has let the world know that he is one Mr. Bobby Heenan, and damn proud of it.

For nearly 10 years in the

WWF, Heenan was one of the finest managers wrestling has ever known. He gave himself the nickname "The Brain," and proceeded to live up to it with his brilliant managerial strokes. On television, Heenan analyzed matches with an incisive verve few announcers in any sport can match.

But Heenan was arrogant, too,

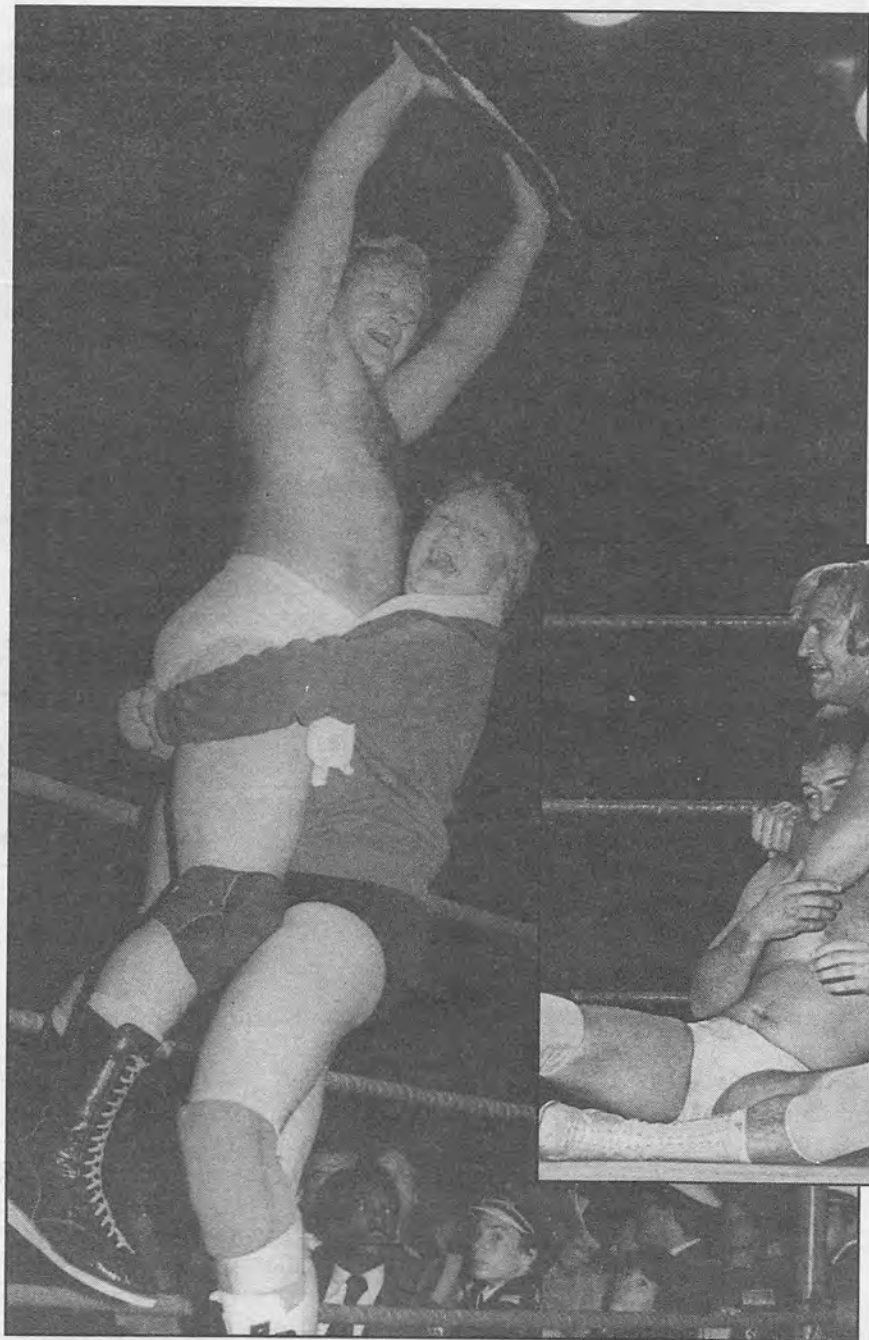
and quick to run his mouth. No one was safe from Heenan's verbal wrath, not even federation higher-ups. He was notorious for his shenanigans and ruthless attacks. And all along, it has been clear that Bobby Heenan is concerned with only one thing: Bobby Heenan.

After a raging decade, Heenan had finally ruffled one feather too many and the WWF cut him loose. Fans and critics wondered when

and where Heenan would resurface. They didn't have long to wait. Soon, Heenan was visible once more, this time strutting his unique stuff at WCW. The way he sees it, it's the best thing that could have happened.

Why? Because Nick Bockwinkel, a friend of Heenan's for many years, is now the federation's commissioner.

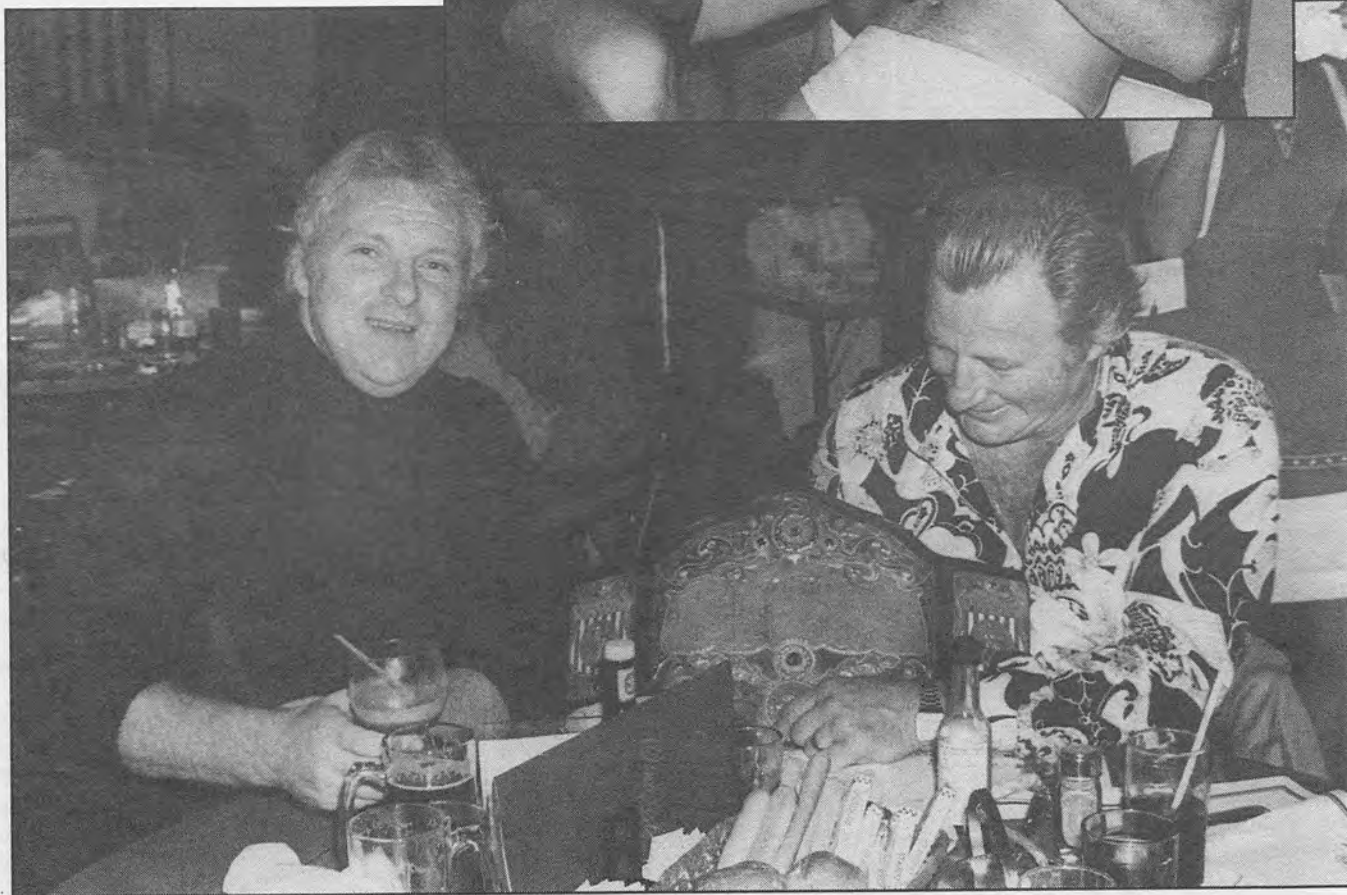
"Oh yeah, me and Nick go back a long way," Heenan said, grin-



Nick Bockwinkel and Bobby Heenan formed one of the great wrestler-manager relationships in history, as Bockwinkel employed Heenan's guidance to win three AWA titles. Can "The Brain" capitalize on their past friendship?

As Heenan sees it, Bockwinkel would do anything for him. And he intends to use that influence to gain more power within WCW, whether it be as a broadcast analyst or as a manager.

Bockwinkel acknowledges that he and Heenan enjoyed many good times together, but adds those days are past. As an executive, he must be impartial to all parties involved in WCW.



ning. "He'd do anything for me. I figure I have the WCW commissioner in my hip pocket now. I'm gonna get whatever I want."

The root of their friendship goes back to the AWA, when Heenan managed Bockwinkel to three of his four World titles. The road to a belt is never an easy one, and in all the sweat and toil it takes to get to the top, a wrestler and a manager can't help but form a com-

mon bond.

"Yes, those were good days together, I can't deny it," Bockwinkel said. "But that time is past. Just like my friendship with Bobby is in the past."

Bockwinkel slowly sipped an espresso during the interview. The great former wrestler looked strikingly elegant, with a white handkerchief rising neatly from the pocket of his deep blue, double-

breasted suit. A gold necktie shone against an immaculate, fitted shirt. In every respect, in his deliberate mannerisms and attentive responses, Bockwinkel came across as a well-bred professional.

"I'm an executive now, and I'm going to behave like one," Bockwinkel said. "Being commissioner of WCW is an awesome responsibility and, I believe, the most important post in wrestling today. I'm not going to undermine it. This is my job, and no one else's.

"If Bobby thinks he's getting any kind of benefits from his association with me, he's dead wrong. If he's got something to say, sure I'll listen. But I'm not giving him any special treatment. He's just like any other manager to me."

It is hoped Bockwinkel will stay true to his words. Heenan deserves respect as a manager, and has certainly earned it as an analyst, but to have him wield his influence on WCW decision-making could be the bane of the federation. Heenan has proven two things in his career: He looks out only for himself, and he usually gets what he wants.

As commissioner, Bockwinkel must consider the federation as a whole and always act in its best interests. What's good for Bobby Heenan is not necessarily good for WCW. Bockwinkel's priorities should never be influenced by personal motives.

What's more, Heenan is likely to push for rulebreakers to rise and go after Ric Flair with a vengeance. True, Heenan at one time aided Flair's Hall of Fame career. And it was Heenan who got the "Nature Boy" that legendary match against Hulk Hogan. But Bobby Heenan is not a man who likes to be overshadowed. And after his breathtaking performance at Starrcade, Flair's shadow looms over all of WCW.

But give Bockwinkel credit. He appeared sincere and resolute as

he dismissed the possibility of Heenan getting involved in federation decision-making. To see a man of Bockwinkel's strength and self-assuredness speak so decisively—"Bobby's more likely to become Mayor of Guam than he is to influence this commissioner," he sarcastically said at one point—is extremely reassuring.

Fear and doubt come only when we hear Heenan's response:

"That's just Nick talkin'. When it comes down to it, I can still get him to do whatever I want him to do. We went through a lot together and nothing can take that away. It's just a matter of me puttin' on the old Heenan charm. Then I'll get my way."

That's how it's usually been, Heenan getting his way. We'll see whether Bockwinkel can keep "The Brain" at bay. □

If Heenan gets involved in a scuffle, he can count on protection from the new commissioner. However, Bockwinkel isn't planning to let "The Brain" run roughshod over the federation, either.



The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

NOT LONG AGO, Missy Hyatt and Teddy Long were on the same team. Now, they are enemies.

Hyatt, the self-proclaimed "First Lady Of WCW," left her role as a broadcaster last summer to take over the managerial duties of The Nasty Boys. Although many believed that Hyatt and the Nastys were a poor match, she proved her critics wrong by guiding Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags to the tag team title.

Since entering WCW, The Nasty Boys have dominated the tag team ranks, except for a 20-day stretch in October when 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell held the belts. As first-time champions often discover, it is much easier to win titles than to keep them, and Scorpio and Bagwell fell victim to The Nasty Boys at Halloween Havoc in New Orleans. Hyatt played a key role in the match with some timely interference.

Long had been secretly advising Scorpio and Bagwell, who give much of the credit for their success to his insight. Recently, he put aside his roles as interviewer and community relations man-about-town to become their full-time manager. Long, who has had his ups and downs as a manager, has committed all of his energies to assisting Scorpio and Bagwell. Hyatt, with whom Long once shared a meeting room, is now his adversary.

Where once was co-existence now exists only hatred. Long has made it his goal to lead Scorpio and Bagwell to the title—and put Hyatt in her place. The editors of *INSIDE WRESTLING* arranged a phone call made by Long to Hyatt in order to hear what the two had to say to each other ... "One On One."

ONE ON ONE



"You always have to be at the center of attention, always have to be in the middle of everything. You want the whole world to notice you."

—Teddy Long

MISSY HYATT: Hello?

TEDDY LONG: Missy! I'm surprised to find you awake in the middle of the afternoon.

MH: Who's this?

TL: It's your long-lost broadcast partner, Missy. The one you love so much.

MH: Teddy Long, I've got nothing to say to you.

TL: Oh, I think you do, Missy. You always have something to say, whether it's interviews or in that stupid column of yours in *WCW Magazine*. I think the time that Marcus kissed you was the only time you've ever shut up. Do you actually write that stuff yourself?

MH: Of course I do! And for your information, it's the most popular column

in the magazine!

TL: I can't believe you're taking credit for that trash. But then again, you took credit for bringing the title to The Nasty Boys, so you probably take credit for anything.

MH: At least I have something to take credit for. Look who's talking. Scorpio and Bagwell cheat their way to the title, and all of a sudden, you swoop in from nowhere as their "adviser." A lot of good your advising did. How long did they hold the title? Not even three weeks.

TL: They'd still be champs if it wasn't for you and your meddling. That was just like you. You always have to be at the center of attention, always have to be in the middle of everything. You want the

N ONE



"You've always been jealous of me. You can't accept the fact that I am more popular than you with the fans, as an announcer and as a manager."

—Missy Hyatt

whole world to notice you.

MH: I'm sorry, Teddy, but I can't account for your jealousy. I guess it doesn't matter whether we're announcers or managers. You've always been jealous of me. You can't accept the fact that I am more popular than you with the fans, as an announcer and as a manager. Face it. Some of us just have something that demands attention, and I've got it.

TL: Something or some things? You face it, Missy. If you were a man with that brain, no one would give you the time of day. Then you'd be in trouble, because I doubt if you know how to tell time.

MH: I can tell the time, and I can tell you this, too: As far as my success goes, I don't have to answer to anybody. I'm a

woman in a man's game and I've made it to the top, which is more than you can say. Ask Brian and Jerry how much I've helped them with scouting and strategy.

TL: I'd like to but I'm too busy laughing. Scouting? Strategy? You? I would trust your scouting abilities to find a one-day clothing sale, but that's about it. Outside of manipulating men to get what you want, I've never seen any strategy from you.

MH: How dare you! I'll bring libel charges against you!

TL: Sorry, baby. You can only sue someone for libel if what they said isn't true. And we all know the truth about you. You have the attention span of a fly at a picnic. You managed The Barbarian for

about 20 minutes. You even thought Marcus was the living end until The Nasty Boys showed up. Then you realized you'd get to the top faster if you hitched your wagon to their stench. What are you gonna do when we beat you for the title?

MH: You've got some nerve questioning my loyalty. I've been true to the boys since they came into WCW and I'm not about to leave them. Not only have I stayed with them, I helped them regain the title. Now, let's look at what you've done. Scorpio and Bagwell get lucky against my Nastys, and you come out of the woodwork like an insect, claiming to be the mastermind behind their success.

TL: How do you know that they didn't come to me? They were looking for guidance. I wasn't ready to become a full-time manager, but I did know that developing a strategy to beat you wouldn't require a lot of time. When we lost the belts—because of interference by you—I had to get more involved to neutralize you.

MH: So it was my managerial skills that forced you to become their manager.

TL: There's that fabulous Hyatt brain again. Everything just goes in one ear and out the other. I said neutralize you, not your managerial skills. What I do is give 2 Cold and Marcus the battle plan and the confidence to take down your Nasty Boys. Whatever you give the Nastys is probably so elementary that I've forgotten it already. But I can't account for dumbstruck referees that have never seen a bleached-blond dressed like a hoochie before.

MH: You take that back!

TL: No, I won't. Who provides your wardrobe, Missy? Heidi Fleiss?

MH: That really means a lot coming from someone who wears a handkerchief on his head. Are you just hiding the fact that you're going bald?

TL: I'd rather be going bald than going nowhere, which is where you will be after we beat the Nastys and they dump you. Your act is getting old, Missy.

MH: That sounds like challengers' talk to me. Are you quite done?

TL: I have one more question.

MH: What's that?

TL: When Marcus kissed you, were you turned on?

MH: Goodbye!

Lex Luger

(Continued from page 34)

Hart and the awaiting of WWF President Jack Tunney's history-altering decision. Tunney ruled *both* wrestlers would get a shot at World champion Yokozuna.

That decision left Luger, like Hart, awaiting another decisive career day at WrestleMania X. Unlike Hart, who once before has worn the WWF World title belt, Luger will go after his ultimate victory.

"This is his moment," said former wrestler Bob Roop, who trained Luger early in his career. "Sure, he won the WCW World title before, but to many people in the world, the WWF belt is

the symbol of supremacy. It's the one people know best. The eyes of the world are going to be on Lex at WrestleMania X, and I'm sure he knows what's at stake."

Luger knows, because his battle with Yokozuna has been fought in sporting and legal arenas. Mr. Fuji and

has been moving rapidly on a steady course since October 31, 1985, when he made his pro debut against Ed "The Bull" Gantner.

"Everybody knew right then Lex was something special," said Hiro Matsuda, then Luger's trainer. "It was always a matter of, 'This kid has the tools. How is he going to use them?'"

Luger has used his tools in different ways, like a builder who uses the same hammer to drive nails into boards and for breaking glass. Just 19 days after his debut, Luger beat veteran Wahoo McDaniel for the Southern title. Less than eight months later, Luger nearly beat Ric Flair for the NWA World title. On that very same night, Sir Oliver Humperdink's men attacked Luger and sent him to the hospital.

A precursor? Sure. Why not? Better yet, a microcosm of what was to come. The wrestling world cheered Luger and waited anxiously after he signed his first contract with Jim Crockett Promotions

(the leading NWA promotion), then looked on in silence when he immediately joined forces with The Four Horsemen.

There it was again. An up and a down. For Luger, there have been great victories followed by crushing defeats, wise decisions followed by disastrous ones.

Beating Nikita Koloff on July 11, 1987, for his first U.S. title made Luger a sure bet for success. Dropping the title to Dusty Rhodes at Starrcade '87 wasn't a complete loss, because Luger



Luger has the opportunity to join Ric Flair on a short list of wrestlers who have won world titles in both WCW and the WWF. That's ironic, because Flair repeatedly stymied Luger's NWA career, dating all the way back to 1986.

Jim Cornette, his opponents in court, succeeded in stopping Luger until the last moment. In the end, they were fighting against the very loopholes they created.

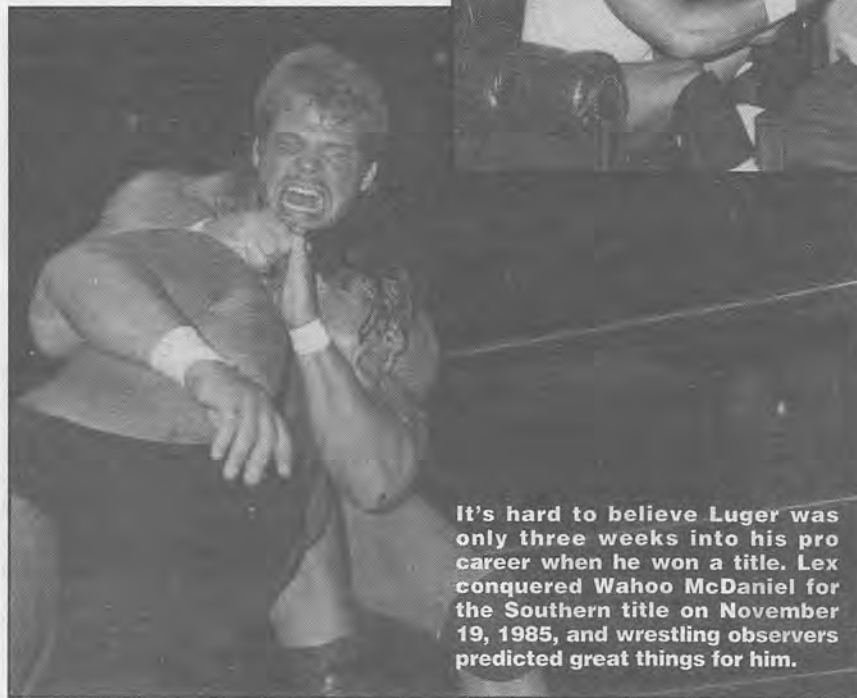
They were also fighting the waves of history. Despite the constant stops and starts, the ups and downs, Luger's career



Lex Luger could have had his finest moment at SummerSlam '93, when he defeated WWF World champion Yokozuna. However, the victory came by countout and the title remained with Yokozuna.

finally saw the error of his alliance with the Horsemen. The clique wouldn't let him do what he needed most—develop freely and outward, like a baby willow.

His career pattern continued. On March 27, 1988, Luger and Barry Windham won the WCW World tag team title. A few weeks later, Windham turned against him. Luger and Sting won the 1988 Crockett Cup tag team tournament, marking a great moment in two young careers.



It's hard to believe Luger was only three weeks into his pro career when he won a title. Lex conquered Wahoo McDaniel for the Southern title on November 19, 1985, and wrestling observers predicted great things for him.

"This is the greatest win of my career," Luger said before assuring us, "there will be more."

There almost was one that summer, when Luger took World champion Flair to the limit at the Great American Bash in Baltimore. He was within reach of beating Flair when an overzealous official from the Maryland Athletic Commission stopped the match because Luger was bleeding from the forehead.

He kept fighting. Luger won the U.S. title again and kept his eyes on Flair. The fans loved him, then they hated him. Then they loved him again. The Horsemen kept Luger from the World title. Koloff attacked him with the U.S. belt.

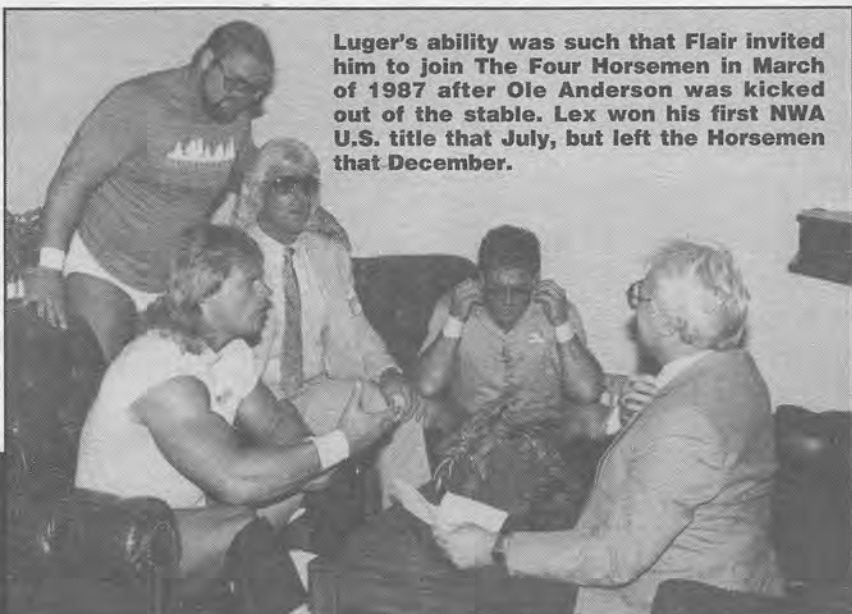
Flair's departure from WCW in

mid-1991 left the World title vacant and gave Luger his biggest break yet. With help from Harley Race and Mr. Hughes, Luger defeated Windham on July 14 for the vacant crown. Less than a year later, Luger was out of WCW after losing the belt to Sting.

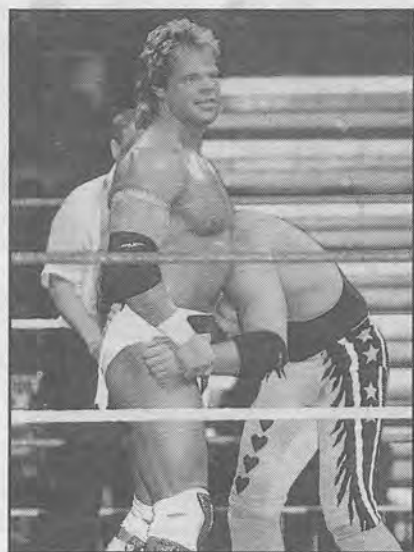
Ups. Downs. Ups. Downs. Luger dropped a bombshell a few weeks afterward when he announced that he was retiring from wrestling and joining Vince McMahon's World Bodybuilding Federation. Then he suffered a serious motorcycle accident, and by the time he was back to full health, the WBF had come and gone. But there was always McMahon's *other* federation.

So his retirement from the ring wasn't permanent. Luger returned as the "Narcissist" under Bobby Heenan's

Luger's ability was such that Flair invited him to join The Four Horsemen in March of 1987 after Ole Anderson was kicked out of the stable. Lex won his first NWA U.S. title that July, but left the Horsemen that December.



If Luger and Hart fought at WrestleMania, they wouldn't be strangers to each other. A year ago, Luger began his WWF career as the rulebreaking "Narcissist," and battled the "Hitman" on numerous occasions.

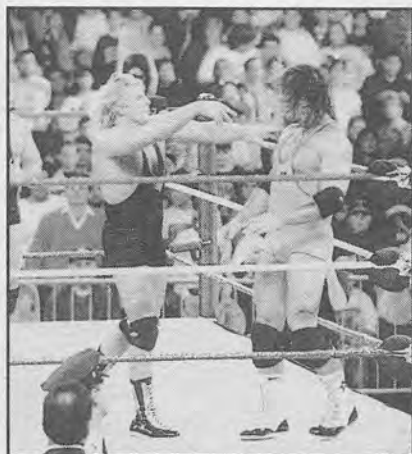


rulebreaking management, then captured the nation's affection with his patriotic bodyslam of Yokozuna on the Fourth of July. He was a hero at SummerSlam '93 despite winning only by countout over the Samoan.

The career continues. There will be more ups and downs. We have learned by now that Luger does not lead a normal life. So, it is impossible to say what WrestleMania X holds for him, other than more ups, or more downs. □

Bret Hart

(Continued from page 35)



Most relationships between brothers have rough spots. Few are carried into a major pay-per-view wrestling card, as Owen and Bret Hart will do at WrestleMania X.



In recent years, Hart has been taken to the limit by Curt Hennig, also one of the continent's premier technical wrestlers. The "Hitman" defeated "Mr. Perfect" at SummerSlam '91 to capture his first Intercontinental title.

could impair his chances of winning another WWF World title later on that card.

This story is premature, because Bret Hart's greatest triumph and gravest tragedy possibly awaits him at Madison Square Garden. But in a career of tremendous accomplishments, there have been ample quanti-

ties of both.

So we proceed, aware this is an incomplete tale with several chapters waiting to be written. Is Hart's career a novel of heroism or tragedy?

"Everything's on the line for both of my sons at WrestleMania X," said Stu

marveled at Hart's rugged WWF World title defense schedule were unfortunately ignorant of Bret's backyard and basement battles with his brothers in Calgary, Alberta.

"Maybe that's why Bret's always been so good at the Royal Rumble,"



Newer wrestling fans may find it hard to believe in light of Hart's recent singles success, but the "Hitman" was once perceived as a tag team wrestler. He and Jim Neidhart feuded with brother-in-law Davey Boy Smith (pictured) and Dynamite Kid.

Hart, patriarch of Canada's most famous wrestling family. "I had always hoped it would never come to this, but it has and now it's undeniable. If Bret wins, great for him but terrible for Owen. If Owen wins, great for him and terri-

ble for Bret. I don't know which scenario my family would survive better, but I know Bret wouldn't be happy about either one.

"I also know he'll find a way to survive. Bret's a survivor."

He survived to become the most famous of eight wrestling brothers in a fiercely competitive family. Those who

mused Helen Hart, Bret's mother. "It must have reminded him of some of our family outings."

Bret's early wrestling days were filled with the normal ups and downs. He won the North American title from Leo Burke in 1980, defended it for more than a year against dangerous competition, and even received a shot at AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel.

His earliest memorable match occurred in 1986. It was in the wrestlers' and football players' battle royal at the Chicago portion of WrestleMania II. Bret was the last man eliminated by Andre the Giant.

"That was a very tough loss for Bret," recalled Keith Hart, Bret's

brother. "He had already established himself as one of the top tag team wrestlers in the WWF, but he desperately wanted to prove to everyone that he could get by on his own. He honestly feels that a victory that day would have escalated him to greatness much sooner."

Bret didn't have any time to sulk. He and Jim Neidhart—The Hart Foundation—were feuding with The British Bulldogs, and they eventually won the WWF World tag team title from Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid on January 26, 1987.

That was a significant victory for the Harts, who many considered a step below the Bulldogs. Bret rose to superstardom with that victory and has never made a descent.

The Harts held the belts for nine months before hurtling into a mini-slump. They lost the belts to Rick Martel and Tito Santana, and one month later were on the losing end in the inaugural Survivor Series.

Ironically, the effort that defined the rest of Bret's career awaited him only two months later. At the WWF's first Royal Rumble on January 24, 1988, Bret stayed in the ring for almost 36 minutes. It was an incredible accomplishment, considering he was one of the first two men in the ring. From that

Hart won the WWF World title in October of 1992, but lost the belt under questionable circumstances at WrestleMania IX when Mr. Fuji threw salt in the "Hitman's" eyes while he was applying a "sharp-shooter" to Yokozuna.



Hart had to battle both Davey Boy Smith and a hostile Wembley Stadium crowd in defense of the Intercontinental title at SummerSlam '92 in London. Though he lost his championship, he did reconcile with his brother-in-law.



At WrestleMania VIII in Indianapolis, Hart won back the I-C belt by defeating Roddy Piper. The triumph reconfirmed Bret's status as one of the WWF's elite wrestlers.

point on, the Rumble not only had a winner and 29 losers, but an Iron Man. Hart was the Rumble's first Iron Man.

"He was rightfully proud of that accomplishment," Stu Hart said. "I know it's strange for a wrestler to be happy about losing, but Bret has always been a realist. He knew when he drew No. 1 that he had no chance of winning. What he did was a great feat."

People started taking Bret seriously as an individual wrestler. Looking back now, it's hard to believe Bret was once known primarily for his tag team exploits. For the past four years, he has made his reputation in the ring.

Triumph: On August 26, 1991, Bret beats Curt Hennig for the Intercontinental title.

Tragedy: The Mountie—managed by the unrelated Jimmy Hart—wins the

I-C title from Bret the following January.

Triumph: Hart reclaims the I-C title by defeating Roddy Piper at WrestleMania VIII.

Tragedy: At SummerSlam '92, Davey Boy Smith beats Bret for the belt.

Triumph: On October 21, 1992, Bret beats Ric Flair for his first WWF World title.

Tragedy: Mr. Fuji blinds Bret with salt and Yokozuna pins him for the World belt at WrestleMania IX.

Triumph and tragedy: Bret wins the 1993 "King Of The Ring" tournament, then gets attacked and brutalized by Jerry Lawler.

But these so-called tragedies pale in comparison to the War Between The Harts. It sounds like a bad novel. Unfortunately, it's the bad truth. □



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On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

absolutely wild *live* on *Monday Night Raw*! There she is, taking an American flag from one of the fans at ringside!"

"She should have given her a white flag, Vince! Mark my words, she's going to have to surrender before this match is over!"

Ding ding ding ding!

"There's the bell and we're underway on *Monday Night Raw*! Kerrigan with an armdrag take-down and Harding bounces up and heads for the corner! Now, Kerrigan on the attack! She puts Harding in a headlock, into the ropes, and—oh!—an awesome dropkick by Kerrigan, and Harding is in trouble! Here's a pin—one, two—and Harding kicks out!"

"This one could be over real soon, Vince!"

"We'll see, 'Macho Man.' Now Gillooly's up on the ring apron, trying to distract the referee, and Kerrigan gives him a dropkick! Gillooly is woozy at ringside! Kerrigan's on the attack again! Irish whip into the corner and here she comes with a forearm smash and—ooh!—Harding got out of the way of that one and Kerrigan is trapped in the corner!"

"That's what happens when you don't have a manager like Jeff Gillooly! A good manager would never let that happen!"

"All right, Brain. Now Harding is in control! A handful of hair and over the top rope goes Kerrigan, down hard onto the arena floor! And she is in pain! The referee is warning Harding about grabbing Kerrigan's hair, and—oh, what's this? Gillooly is sneaking up on Kerrigan. He's got something in his hand!"

"Here's the surprise I was telling you about, Vince!"

"Gillooly's got a nightstick! Kerrigan is helpless and—oh!—a

vicious shot to the leg of Nancy Kerrigan by Jeff Gillooly. A cheap shot! And another one! Kerrigan is crying out in pain! And now Gillooly is telling the referee to count out Kerrigan! The referee didn't see the nightstick!"

"I can't believe he got away with it. Jeff Gillooly is a snake in the grass!"

"Seventeen, 18, 19, 20! It's over!"

Ding ding ding ding!

"Nancy Kerrigan has been counted out of the ring and Tonya Harding has won the match! Kerrigan is struggling to get to her feet! I don't think she realizes she's lost! And—wait a minute! What's this?! The Henchmen are storming the ring! It's Derrick Smith, Shane Stant, and big 300-pound Shawn Eckardt! There's utter chaos here *live* on *Monday Night Raw*!"

"This is a travesty, Vince!"

"Eckardt slams Kerrigan's leg against the ringpost! And now Harding and Gillooly are arguing in the middle of the ring! Gillooly slaps Harding in the face! Harding with a kick to the midsection! And here come The Henchmen into the ring! All four men are pounding on Harding! Oh, what a vicious attack on Harding perpetrated by these four men! A clothesline by Gillooly! Harding is down and might be out! And a big elbowdrop by Eckardt!"

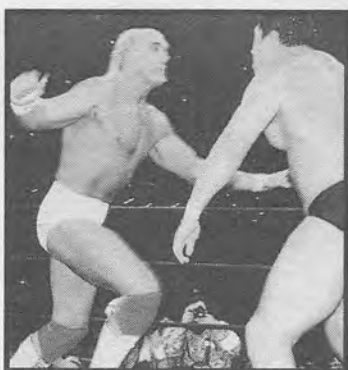
Ding ding ding ding!

"And the referee is lifting the arm of Kerrigan! The decision has been reversed! Nancy Kerrigan has won the match! Harding and Gillooly are disqualified! And the brawl continues in the ring! Harding is unconscious! Oh, what a turn of events here *live* on *Monday Night Raw*! We'll be right back."

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THE Wrestler

Aftershocks!
How the Royal
Rumble shook
up WrestleMania



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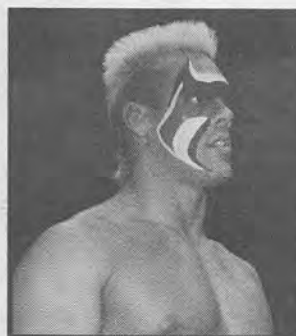
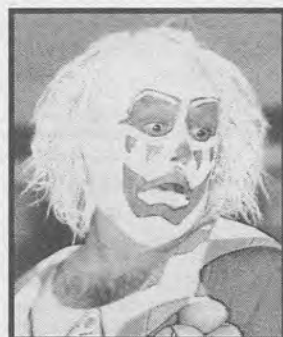
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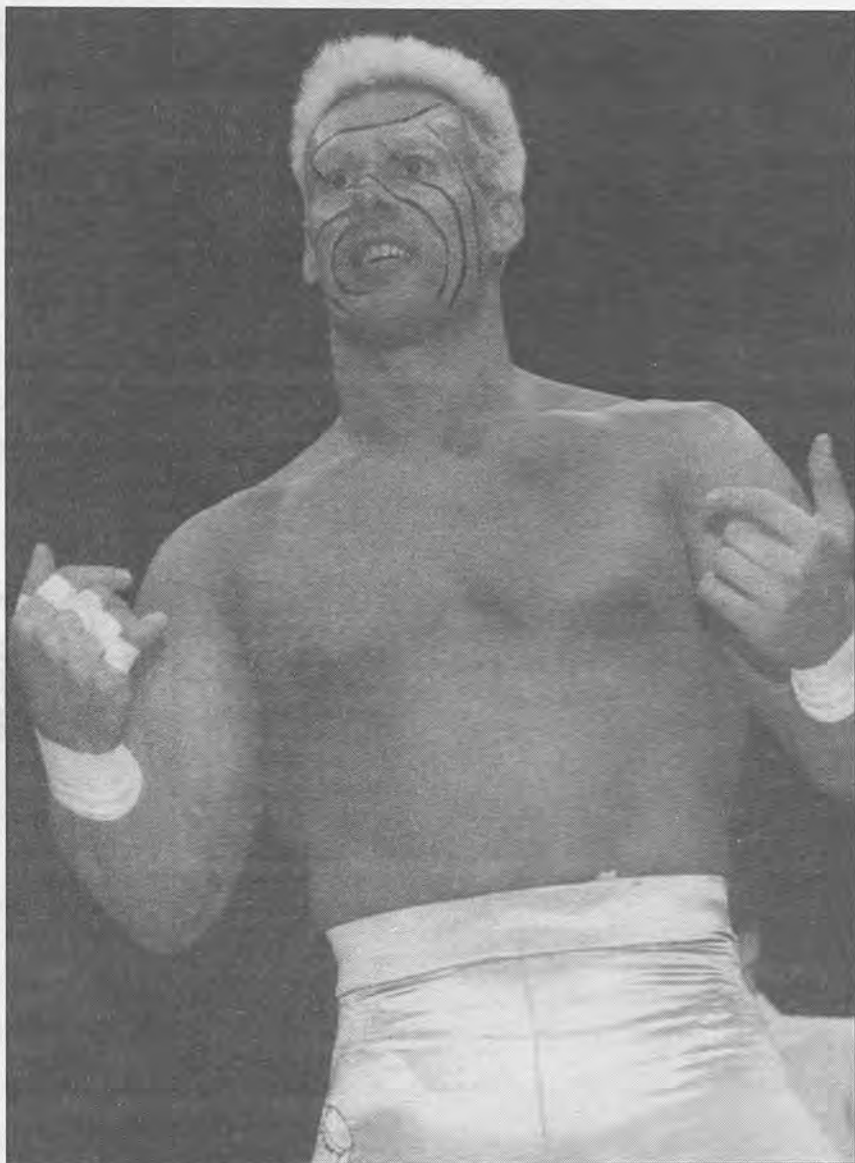
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On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Hunter nearly wrote this month's column about Sting. He told her that he's been rethinking his own image. More on that next month (maybe!).

turned into a fat ol' cow? Inquiring readers want to know."

First of all, let me say unequivocally and without hesitation that there is nothing, nor has there ever been anything, going on between Rick Rude and myself. It is a professional relationship. If Mr. Rude has other desires, that is his unfortunate tough luck. I'm out for the story, not to become another rip in his spandex.

I must acknowledge, however, a certain truth to Andrea's letter. Every columnist has certain wrestlers they turn to in a pinch, those wrestlers with whom they've developed a good rapport and whom they can count on for a quote when other sources dry up.

It's a tough business. I documented here the stone wall The Rockers imposed on me, suddenly and without warning. In my

naivete, I considered them good friends, yet it was clear they were using me for publicity. When I stopped being of use, they stopped talking.

I learned my lesson in two ways. Never count on anyone, and keep constant tabs on my best sources—in my case, that would include Rick Rude, Sting, and Rick Steamboat.

In fact, my first inclination this month was to write about Sting's stunning victory over Rude at Clash of the Champions XXVI. Sting had become something of a lost soul recently in WCW, overshadowed by Big Van Vader, Rude, and Ric Flair. He was even knocked off a recent magazine cover in favor of Bobby Heenan!

Yet Sting had done nothing to warrant such disfavor. He is wrestling better than ever, as was evidenced by his victory over Rude. This column was going to examine Sting's plight, the capricious nature of fame, and what he could do to regain his stronghold on the federation.

I even had one of my trademarked quotes, which I obtained from Sting at a hotel bar at 12:30 one morning. "It's all perception, Liz," Sting calmly told me. "Lately, I've been rethinking my whole image. People get tired of responding to a known quantity like me. I'm always reliable. I can be counted on. They're beginning to take me for granted. Maybe I've been too good for too long."

Sting the rulebreaker? Is that a scoop or what?

Unfortunately, Ms. Fields' letter led me to shelve the column in favor of this self-examination. The editors, in the meantime, threw a fit when they discovered the information I was sitting on. So next month, like it or not, Andrea, you'll learn more about Sting's mid-career crisis.

Unless, of course, Rick Rude has something more interesting to say. ☐

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

the IWCCW has recently imported stars such as Greg Valentine and Rick Martel to appear on a few cards.

With the reemergence of inde-

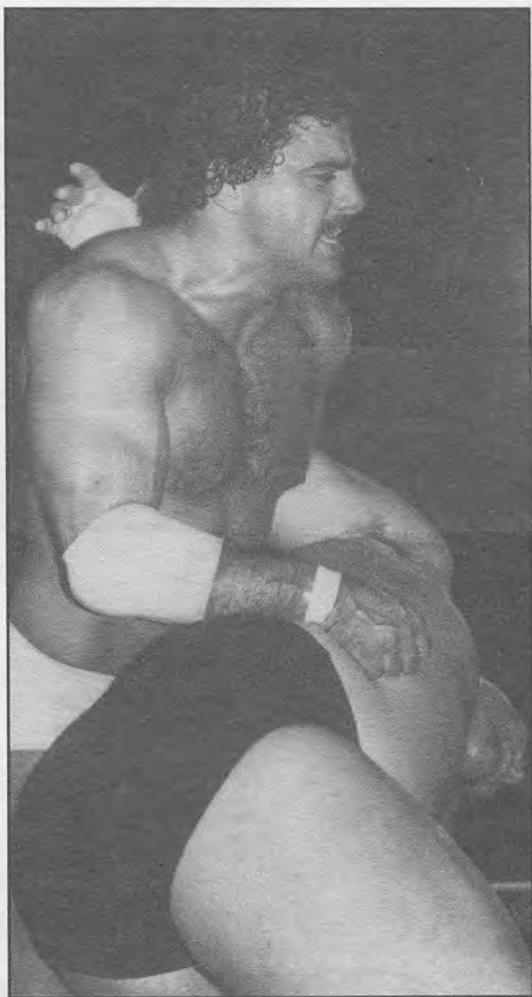
HULK-HATER

Why do you *think* Randy Savage and Bret Hart are out to get Hulk Hogan ("Hulk-Bashing! Why Are Randy Savage And Bret Hart Out To Get Hogan," February 1994)? Because he insulted the WWF World title, that's why!

I believe that Hogan is jealous of Savage and Hart. They were fighting champions. Each man defended his strap more times in a given week than

Hogan did during his last 70-day reign! Hogan is a chicken. Hart's post-WrestleMania challenge to Hogan went unanswered, and Savage had the guts to come clean about past steroid use, while Hogan remains shrouded in controversy. Plus, both Hart and Savage boast World title victories over Hogan's most frustrating opponent, Ric Flair. Hogan can't say the same, and he knows it.

With his infamous slur in Japan, Hogan cheap-shotted not only Savage and Hart, but the entire



Joe Savoldi is among several top-flight wrestlers in the IWCCW. Reader Stan Lenkiewicz says this independent federation deserves more attention than it gets.

pendent promotions, the IWCCW will undoubtedly be a force in 1994. This reader hopes that this federation receives more coverage in the future.

STAN R. LENKIEWICZ
Paramus, NJ



Sure, Randy Savage is out to get Hulk Hogan, says reader Harry Simon. He calls the attack deserved, because Hogan refused to defend his most recent WWF World title as Savage and Bret Hart did.

WWF, and even his own "Hulkamaniacs." It's a good thing that the "Huckster" likes the IWGP so much, because the next time he shows his face (either of them!) in the WWF, he's liable to get booed out of the building!

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

LOVE THAT LEX

I'm responding to Al Henley's letter "Please Bam Yokozuna" ("Sincerely Yours," February 1994). I'm sorry to be the one to tell you this, Al, but Bam Bam Bigelow can't even win a match unless he cheats or has some kind of outside interference! I was very offended by you calling Lex Luger a jerk, and I think that when he was the "Narcissist," he wasn't championship material. When he was with Bobby "The Weasel" Heenan, all he knew how to do was cheat. Personally, I think that if you have to cheat or depend on outside interference to win a match, you shouldn't be wrestling.

I think Lex Luger is such an excellent wrestler that by all rights he *should* be the WWF champion. If that sleazy Jim Cornette hadn't stuck his nose in where it really didn't belong, I believe that Lex would be champion today! Lex Luger would make an excellent champion, because, after all, I believe he is the world's premier wrestler!

BROOKE DESSELLE
Colorado Springs, CO

INDUBITAB-LEE

Yokozuna is a good wrestler, Ric Flair a great one, but for my money the best wrestler in North America today belongs to neither major federation. He is, instead, Smoky Mountain's Brian Lee.

To those who say Lee is no more than Tammy Fytch's puppet, I offer this: In more than a few of his

matches, Fytch was not on hand, and yet Lee was able to retain his belt. And remember, this is his *second* SMW title reign. Add that he's more mobile than Yokozuna and far younger than Flair or Jerry Lawler, and it's obvious that Lee has the best long-term potential of any champion today.

JERRY CASTLE
Ewing, VA

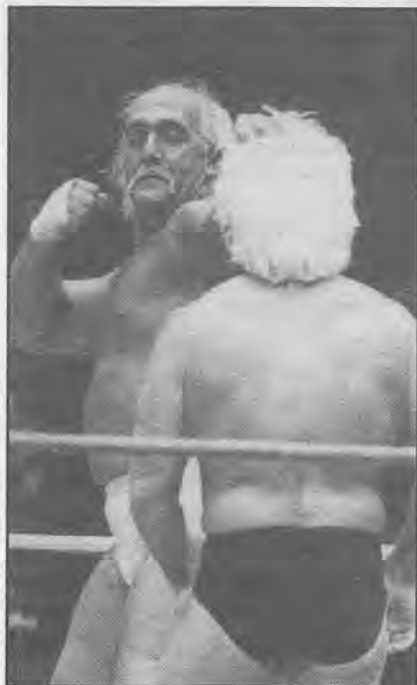
HULK IN WCW? NO!

A possibility of Hulk Hogan coming to WCW? Horrors! Who will his mentor be, to show him how to dropkick, come off the ropes, make counter moves?

The WWF's loss of Hogan would not be WCW's gain. Faithful WCW watchers know a good wrestler from an overrated, over-publicized one whose wrestling arsenal consists of a legdrop and little else.

Spare WCW fans from Hulkamania.

RUTH DAVIS
Culver City, CA ☐



Hulk Hogan wouldn't be welcome in WCW, says Ruth Davis. She's tired of watching Hogan and his limited repertoire.

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Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)



One can dislike WWF head and broadcaster Vince McMahon for his business practices or his outlandish announcing style. But, to Dave Rosenbaum, calling him a criminal might be too strong a comment.

Yokozuna: 7-5.

Bret Hart: 9-5.

Lex Luger: 2-1.

Hart would be the favorite under tournament rules, but this isn't a tournament. Yokozuna can retain his title with two disqualification/countout victories or losses, and that makes him a slight favorite.

And here are my WrestleMania X picks: Luger over Yokozuna by countout; Hart pins Yokozuna for the World title.

An attempt at logical thought about Vince McMahon's legal

problems: Is the charge of illegal distribution of steroids merely a crime because it's against the law?

If that reads like convoluted thinking, let me explain. It is easy to understand why murder and robbery are illegal. There are victims. It's also easy to see why selling and using heroin, cocaine, and other mind-altering drugs are illegal. The drugs are potentially lethal and the market is controlled by organized crime and violent cartels.

But why is distribution and use of anabolic steroids illegal? The

distribution of steroids is basically controlled by the medical community. Although there is evidence that steroid abuse is dangerous, several studies have countered these claims.

I'm not saying steroids are good or right, because there is, indeed, much evidence that people have died or had their lives ruined by steroid abuse. But I'm saying that, at this point, steroid use seems no worse than smoking or drinking, and far preferable to heroin and cocaine abuse.

In other words, should distribution of steroids be such a serious crime that McMahon faces eight years in prison and fines totaling \$500,000?

Is the world a better place with McMahon behind bars?

Or were these federal prosecutors trying to make headlines by capitalizing on a questionable law?

What, indeed, is McMahon's crime?

I'm sure Phil Mushnick of the *New York Post* can come up with an entire litany of crimes McMahon has committed against mankind, including conspiracy to distribute thousands of copies of the Royal Rumble home video game to unsuspecting children.

I don't like McMahon or his business practices. I think he's an egomaniac. I don't like the way he dresses, the way he speaks, or the way he acts. I think he's an embarrassment to the broadcasting profession. Heck, I think it would be pretty damn funny if McMahon landed behind bars.

But I'm just not totally convinced he's a criminal. □

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3761 EPMD
3781 Gloria Estefan
3981 Extreme
3272 Faster Pussycat
3471 Firehouse
4221 Peter Gabriel
4362 Genesis
4381 Geto Boyz
4721 Grateful Dead
4861 Guns N Roses
4261 Hammer
4274 Hardline
4682 House of Pain
4681 Whitney Houston
4231 Ice Cube
4232 Ice-T
4611 INXS

5222 Janet Jackson
5221 Michael Jackson
5631 Jodeci
5632 Billy Joel
5641 Elton John
5832 Wynonna Judd
5472 KISS
5741 Kris Kross
6771 KRS-One
5332 Led Zeppelin
5962 Lynch Mob
6231 Madonna
6252 Mitch Malloy
6271 Marky Mark & the
Funky Bunch
6241 Megadeth
6382 Metallica
6422 George Michael
6682 Motley Crue
6721 Mr. Big
6352 Nelson
6461 Nine Inch Nails
6471 Nirvana
6262 Sinead O'Connor
6723 Ozzy Osbourne
7263 Pantera
7321 Pearl Jam
7381 Tom Petty
9454 Wilson Phillips
7462 Pink Floyd
7641 Poison

7742 Prince
7743 Prince Markie Dee
1832 Queensryche
7265 The Ramones
7333 Redman
7363 R.E.M.
7332 R.H. Chili Peppers
7651 Rolling Stones
7871 Rush
7251 Salt N Pepa
7541 Skid Row
7523 Slaughter
7643 The Smithereens
7682 Soundgarden
7683 Soup Dragons
7746 Spin Doctors
7771 Bruce Springsteen
7842 Sting
7931 Mathew Sweet
8371 Tesla
8431 They Might Be Giants
8521 TLC
8721 Randy Travis
8221 U2
8451 Ugly Kid Joe
8262 Van Halen
8341 Suzanne Vega
9463 The Who
9452 Vanessa Williams
9682 Neil Young
1181 ZZ Top

PLUS ...OVER 250 MORE! (If the Band you're looking for is not listed here, just press or say the numbers on your phone that contain the first three letters of the band, or artist's last name (i.e. GUNs n Roses = 486, Gloria ESTefan = 378).

The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Ric Flair received a beating at the hands of Big Van Vader when the "Nature Boy" captured the WCW World title at Starrcade. Now that Vader wants the belt back, the punishment may increase tenfold.

my years in and around the ring, I've never encountered anything like him. As a colleague and a fellow veteran, I implore Ric Flair to retire. The party was nice, but the party is over. It's Vader's party now, and the last thing you want is an invitation."

For the comprehension-impaired in the audience, it boils down to this: Big Van Vader is the best pro wrestler on the planet. It doesn't get any simpler than that.

News Item: Tonya Harding, Rulebreaker of the Year. Forget the gold medal—wouldn't she look great in the ring next to Vader? Or with her powerful,

triple-axe legs wrapped around Alundra Blayze? You bet I'm not kidding. Let the recruiting for Tonya Harding begin!

Of course she's a magnificent ice skater. But when she claims "skating is her life," she's missing the big picture. Tonya, baby, you're in the wrong sport. If ever there was a born pro wrestler, it is in the shape of the 115-pound Oregon fireplug.

Already she's a lock for Rulebreaker of the Year. All she needs is some sound management. She's right to dump that geek she had for a husband. He was the problem. Not only did he botch a simple hit-and-run,

but when it all hit the fan, he wouldn't even take the rap for his own wife? He's the one who deserves eviscerating.

All Tonya needs is a competent staff of people she can trust. People who appreciate her and won't be mesmerized by whimpering pretty-girl fan favorites like Nancy Kerrigan. While we wait for Tonya's skating fate to be decided, I'm going to put together a team that will take her straight to the top of professional wrestling.

Don't worry, people. Even if she wasn't on the plane to Lillehammer, you haven't heard the last of Tonya Harding. □

Inside Wrestling

Back Issues of

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Sludd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue.
Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes, T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-

Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.

June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.
September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.
December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Ultimate, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat.

September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.
November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.
April 1992/Stories include: Hart, Steiners, Liger-Pillman, Roberts.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
September 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analysis, Andre tribute, Muta.
June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.
August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.
October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Fytc, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna, Luna.

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
(1) WCW World champion
- 2—**YOKOZUNA**
(2) WWF World champion
- 3—**RAZOR RAMON**
(5) WWF Intercontinental champion

- 4—**LEX LUGER**
(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title
- 5—**BRET HART**
(4) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
- 6—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(3) WCW U.S. champion
- 7—**STEVE REGAL**
(6) WCW TV champion

- 8—**STING**
(7) No. 6 contender: WCW World title
- 9—**RICK RUDE**
(9) No. 4 contender: WCW World title
- 10—**BIG VAN VADER**
(11) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
- 11—**EDDIE GILBERT**
(-) No. 1 contender: USWA heavyweight title

- 12—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(12) No. 12 contender: WWF World title
- 13—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(13) No. 5 contender: WCW World title
- 14—**TERRY FUNK**
(10) ECW heavyweight champion
- 15—**JERRY LAWLER**
(8) USWA champion

WCW

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**STEVE AUSTIN**
(2) 241, Dallas, TX
- 3—**BIG VAN VADER**
(3) 450, Denver, CO

- 4—**STEVE REGAL**
(4) 247, Blackpool, England
- 5—**RICK RUDE**
(5) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 6—**DUSTIN RHODES**
(6) 254, Austin, TX
- 7—**STING**
(7) 260, Venice Beach, CA

- 8—**ARN ANDERSON**
(15) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
(8) 238, Honolulu, HI
- 10—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
(10) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 11—**THE PATRIOT**
(-) 251, Columbia, SC

- 12—**THE BOSS**
(9) 310, Cobb County, GA
- 13—**RON SIMMONS**
(11) 260, Perry, GA
- 14—**JOHNNY B. BADD**
(13) 235, Macon, GA
- 15—**ERIK WATTS**
(14) 262, Tulsa, OK

WWF

- 1—**YOKOZUNA**
(1) 550, Samoa
- 2—**RAZOR RAMON**
(2) 291, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**SHAWN MICHAELS**
(5) 220, San Antonio, TX

- 4—**TATANKA**
(3) 260, Miami, FL
- 5—**BRET HART**
(6) 235, Calgary, Alberta
- 6—**LEX LUGER**
(7) 290, Chicago, IL
- 7—**OWEN HART**
(15) 223, Calgary, Alberta

- 8—**CRUSH**
(8) 310, Honolulu, HI
- 9—**RANDY SAVAGE**
(13) 245, Sarasota, FL
- 10—**DOINK THE CLOWN**
(10) 235, parts unknown
- 11—**MARTY JANNETTY**
(9) 230, Columbia, GA

- 12—**JEFF JARRETT**
(12) 220, Hendersonville, TN
- 13—**THE UNDERTAKER**
(4) 320, parts unknown
- 14—**KWANG THE NINJA**
(-) 242, parts unknown
- 15—**SPARKY PLUGG**
(-) 243, Talladega, AL

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**BRET HART**
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

- 4—**RAZOR RAMON**
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- 5—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
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- 8—**DUSTIN RHODES**
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- 9—**TATANKA**
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular
- 11—**THE UNDERTAKER**
Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

- 12—**THE BOSS**
Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular
- 13—**THE KID**
Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular
- 14—**JOHNNY B. BADD**
Last issue: unrated
- 15—**BRIAN CHRISTOPHER**
Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1—**BIG VAN VADER**
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2—**SHAWN MICHAELS**
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3—**YOKOZUNA**
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

- 4—**RICK RUDE**
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**STEVE AUSTIN**
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6—**JEFF JARRETT**
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated
- 7—**CRUSH**
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

- 8—**STEVE REGAL**
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated
- 9—**LUDVIG BORGA**
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated
- 10—**EDDIE GILBERT**
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated
- 11—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated

- 12—**TERRY FUNK**
Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated
- 13—**RON SIMMONS**
Last issue: unrated
- 14—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
Last issue: unrated
- 15—**BRIAN LEE**
Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

TOP 15

- 1—**THE NASTY BOYS**
(1) WCW World tag team champions
- 2—**THE QUEBECERS**
(2) WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 4—**THE HEAVENLY BODIES**
(4) Smoky Mountain tag team champions
- 5—**CACTUS JACK & MAXX PAYNE**
(7) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

- 6—**2 COLD SCORPIO & MARCUS BAGWELL**
(5) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 7—**THE HEADSHRINKERS**
(15) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 8—**THE MOONDOGS**
(-) USWA tag team champions
- 9—**KEVIN SULLIVAN & TASMANIAC**
(10) ECW tag team champions
- 10—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
(-) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

- 11—**PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA**
(9) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 12—**THE BRUISE BROTHERS**
(8) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
- 13—**THE SMOKIN' GUNNS**
(11) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
- 14—**HARLEM HEAT**
(13) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title
- 15—**MEN ON A MISSION**
(12) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended February 9, 1994

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL HUO DEL SANTO & OCTAGON
(November 5, 1993; defeated Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero; Toluca, Mexico)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN KROFFAT
(May 21, 1993; from Masanobu Fuchi; Sapporo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Tase & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: TOSHIYO YAMADA
(November 28, 1993; defeated Minami Toyota; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIMA SHIMODA
(September 18, 1993; from Bat Yoshinaga; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHAPPARITA ASARI
(November 28, 1993; from Misaki Endo; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DYNAMITE KANSAI & MAYUMI OZAKI
(April 11, 1993; from Minami Toyota & Toshiyo Yamada; Osaka, Japan)

ALL STATES WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBIE FIELDS
(October 14, 1993; from Charles Long; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RIP SAWYER
(November 6, 1993; from Max Thrasher; Steelton, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LORD ZOLTAN
(November 6, 1993; from Quinn Nash; Steelton, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ASWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHAD AUSTIN
(November 14, 1993; from Joe College; Essex, MD)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CAROLINA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITCH RYDER
(January 15, 1994; from Kahn the Warlord; Durham, NC)

CAROLINA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE COUNTRY CLUB
(December 4, 1993; from The East-West Connection; Smithfield, NC)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO
(July 3, 1993; from Hawk; Graz, Austria)

CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(July 11, 1992; for vacant title over Bob Orton Jr.; Graz, Austria)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(December 4, 1993; from El Mascarado; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK
(December 26, 1993; from Sabu; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TASMANIANAC & KEVIN SULLIVAN
(December 4, 1993; from Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas [substituting for Johnny Gunn]; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: SABU
(November 13, 1993; from Terry Funk; Philadelphia, PA)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS
(December 25, 1993; from Iceman Parsons; Dallas, TX)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLACK BART & JOHN HAWK
(December 25, 1993; Chaz Taylor & Steven Dane; Dallas, TX)

ICWA CHAMPION: JUMBO BARRETTA
(September 23, 1993; from Cuban Assassin; Tampa, FL)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VLADIMIR KOLOFF
(October 17, 1992; battle royal final over Thunderfoot II; Girard, OH)

IWA INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BARRY HOROWITZ
(October 23, 1993; from Preston Steele; Warren, OH)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Thunderboots)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CIEN CARAS
(November 13, 1993; defeated Konnan; San Jose, CA)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from The Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; tournament final over The Canadians; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(September 20, 1993; from The Great Muta; Nagoya, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK
(January 4, 1994; from Scott Norton & Hercules; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

MEWF HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: LUCIFER
(November 14, 1993; from Margus the Maniac; Essex, MD)

PWA CHAMPION: THE HATER
(June 12, 1993; from Tommy Ferrara; Albertville, MN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Tase & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION
(January 22, 1994; from Austin Steele; Taylorsville, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: AMERICAN G.I.
(January 29, 1994; over Russian Assassin; Inman, SC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEORGE SOUTH
(January 14, 1994; from Star Ryder; Hamlet, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY AUSTIN & AUSTIN STEELE
(February 4, 1994; from Italian Stallion & Star Ryder; Elkin, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN LEE
(July 17, 1993; from Tracey Smothers; Johnson City, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEAVENLY BODIES
(November 24, 1993; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Boston, MA)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY BLAZE
(October 10, 1993; from Chris Candido; Johnson City, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY RICH
(September 23, 1993; from Buddy Landell; Maryville, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL RAY & JOHNNY RAYNOR
(September 23, 1993; from Tom Pinner & Duke Rivers; Maryville, TN)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(February 7, 1994; from Eddie Gilbert; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: DOUG GILBERT
(February 7, 1994; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MOONDOGS
(January 31, 1994; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Memphis, TN)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LORD STEVEN REGAL
(September 19, 1993; from Rick Steamboat; Houston, TX)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(December 27, 1993; from Dustin Rhodes; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(December 27, 1993; from Big Van Vader; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS
(October 24, 1993; from 2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Alexander Bagwell; New Orleans, LA)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMITH BROTHERS
(November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CRYPT KEEPER
(August 31, 1993; from Crash the Terminator; Akita, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERICHEV
(May 24, 1992; from Horace Boulder & Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RAZOR RAMON
(September 27, 1993; tournament final over Rick Martel; New Haven, CT)

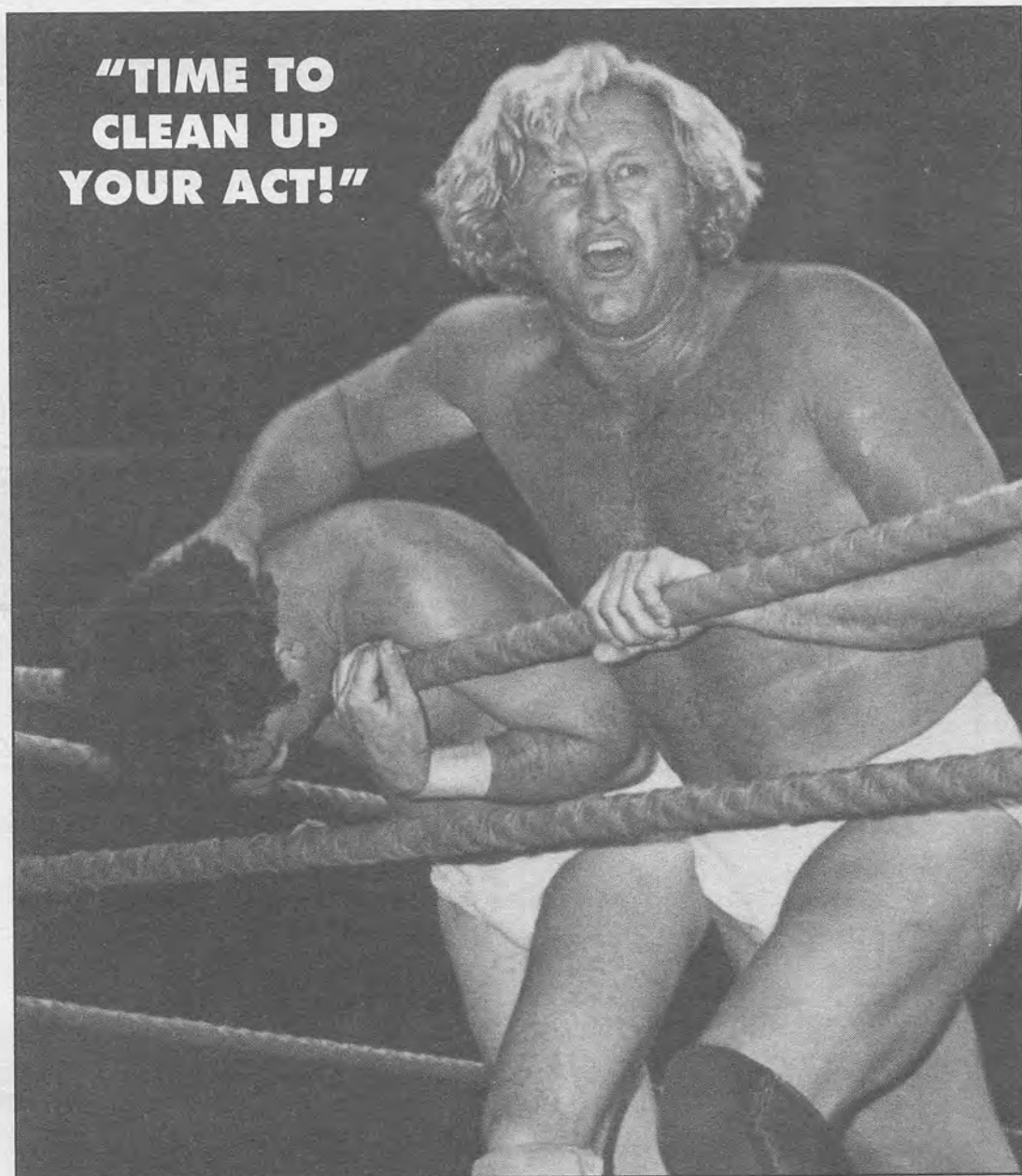
WWF WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: ALINDRA BLAYZE
(December 13, 1993; tournament final over Heidi Lee Morgan; Poughkeepsie, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: YOKOZUNA
(June 13, 1993; from Hulk Hogan; Dayton, OH)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE QUEBECERS
(January 17, 1994; from The Kid & Marty Jannetty; New York, NY)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History



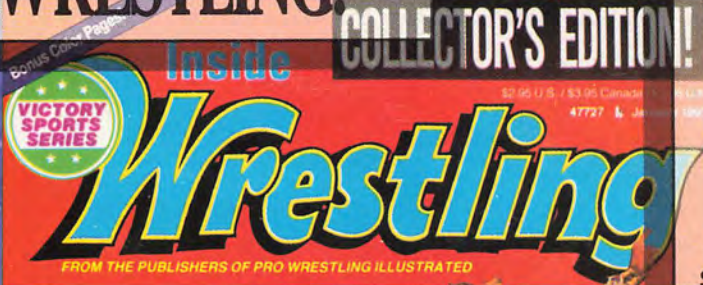
**"TIME TO
CLEAN UP
YOUR ACT!"**

NICK BOCKWINKEL vs. GREG GAGNE

March 1982

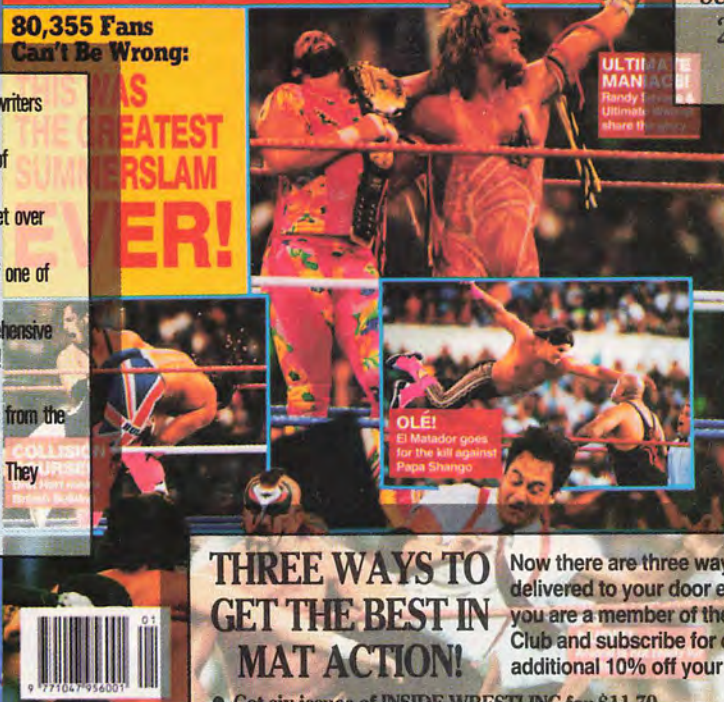
It's now up to WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel to see that dirty deeds in the federation do not go unpunished. Current WCW talent scout Greg Gagne will attest that the former AWA World champ wasn't always as law-abiding and forthright as he is today. Bockwinkel had a reputation for doing whatever it took—including choking—to retain his belt.

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